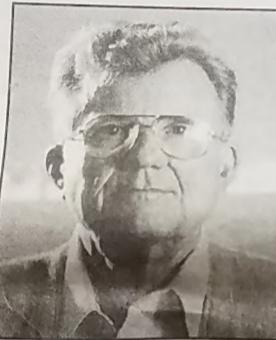


REMEMBERING FRIENDS

'Onion Field' Investigator and 'Father of Officer Survival Training', Pierce R. Brooks Passes Away

Use of force trainers, officer survival instructors, and the international police community join the LAPD family in remembering Pierce R. Brooks, retired Captain—LAPD, and retired Chief of the Lakewood, Colorado, and Springfield and Eugene, Oregon, police departments, who passed away in his beloved Vida, Oregon at 75 on February 28, 1998. He apparently succumbed to complications associated with Alzheimer's disease, which he had been battling for the past year. He is survived by his wife Joyce, and sons Dan and Mike.

To those of us privileged to have known and worked with him, a special feeling of sadness accompanies this news, for he was admired mightily for his grit, his character, his charismatic leadership style, and his uncommon love and concern for each and every member of



the Thin Blue Line, wherever situated, and however employed. It was this singular mission that committed Pierce to his lifelong quest to "keep the walls bare" at the National Police Officers' Memorial in Washington, D.C., and at every other place of honor where the names of our fallen brothers and sisters are etched in their memory, upon walls of stone.

To those who didn't know Pierce personally, but benefited from his leadership and teaching in officer survival (Officer Down—Code 3 was his most well-known training segment), he was, in the words of Calibre Press co-founders Dennis Anderson and Chuck Remsberg, "the father of officer survival training."

To those outside of law enforcement trainers' circles who may have heard of Pierce Brooks, he was the skillful and determined "Sergeant Brooks" who brought Gregory Ulas Powell and Jimmy Lee Smith to justice. Powell and Smith murdered Officer Ian Campbell in cold blood in the darkness of an onion patch south of Bakersfield, California, on March 9, 1963, after they disarmed plain-clothes officer Campbell and his partner, Karl Hettinger, at Carlos and Gower in Hollywood, and kidnapped them to the onion patch near Mettler, California, where, after promising the officers they would be released in the area unharmed, shot Ian Campbell in the face at point blank range. As they were distracted in ensuring that Campbell was dead, Karl Hettinger bolted and ran into the field, and managed to elude the killers who pursued him, shooting into the darkness. This infamous murder instantly became the subject of intense scrutiny and debate because Karl Hettinger had "given up his gun" to the killers who had "gotten the drop" on Campbell at the car stop in Hollywood, and it was later the stuff of Joseph Wambaugh's best-selling and factually accurate book, *The Onion Field*, and still later, a full-length movie by the same title, which featured James Woods in a chilling portrayal of Gregory Powell.

Those who took police orals for LAPD in the early '70s will recall the standard scenario designed to place the applicant in the position of Karl Hettinger, followed by, "What would you do?" The obvious answer the oral boards were looking for was, "I wouldn't give up my gun, no matter what."

I didn't need to hear the story. I'd already heard it firsthand from Pierce Brooks two years earlier when I worked as his adjutant, police-news media liaison, and *Continued on page 29*

The City of Los Angeles is currently engaged in an effort to reform the City Charter. The general view is that the Charter is too burdened with unnecessary detail and must be streamlined and modified to improve efficiency in City government and responsiveness to the public. Two Commissions are currently working independently to develop ballot measures that will be submitted to the voters for their approval: a Commission appointed by the City Council; and a Commission elected by the public at large. (Director Dennis P. Zine was elected to the latter.) The appointed Commission must submit their proposals to the City Council before they can go on the ballot. The Elected Commission has the authority to take a measure directly to the ballot.

It's easy to understand why the residents of the City of Los Angeles should be concerned about Charter Reform, but you might be asking yourself why the League should care about Charter Reform. The answer is found in the wide range of employee-related issues



found in the City Charter, including pension benefits, disciplinary procedures, civil service rules and budgetary procedures. There is potential for both tremendous new initiatives that enhance employee job protections, pension benefits and civil service rules, and for changes which would not be viewed as friendly to the dedicated employees who make City government work.

It has been made clear that managers want to manipulate the Charter into a document that erodes employee job rights and protections under the guise of more efficient management of departmental personnel. They want to be free to exercise management discretion unencumbered by rules requiring fairness and equity for the employees affected by their managerial edicts. Dictatorships are more efficient than more restrained forms of management, but they're not always pleasant environments in which to work for employees subjected to the whims of those entrusted with such unbridled power.

The League and other employee groups are advocating positions which strengthen job protections and enhance fairness in the discipline of employees. We are at polar opposites from management on some issues, and compromise will be difficult to reach. Many of the Department's recommendations involve changes in disciplinary procedures which the League opposes. We view Charter Reform as an opportunity to give police officers the same protections enjoyed by nearly every other City employee. It may come as a surprise to you that the employees of every other City department, including the Fire Department, have the right to appeal discipline to an outside arbiter. Only police officers are denied this basic avenue of objective appeal. How objective can a command officer be sitting

on a Board of Rights, when he knows his decision will be closely scrutinized and perhaps criticized up the chain of command; the same chain of command that will make decisions regarding the next transfer, promotion and career advancement? Police officers need and deserve the same rights provided to other City employees and the League will be pursuing Charter changes that ensure that police officers are treated at least as well as other City employees.

The Charter Reform process has been progressing for some time now, and recently the Department brought its recommendations for Charter Reform to the Police Commission for the Commission's review and approval. A week later I had an opportunity to counter the Department's proposals with *Continued on page 11*

UNITED WE STAND

GARY FULLERTON
Vice President



This place is getting scary, don't you think? I mean, look at what is happening to our disciplinary system and how it is totally trashing our hard-working officers. And look how it is totally incapacitating the effectiveness of our supervisors. All they have time for is to investigate complaints. I have received numerous complaints from our members about the unfairness and wastefulness of this system, and demands that the League do something to modify this outrageous system. I have told each person that we have attempted to deal with this through the Police Commission but to no avail. The Commission has sunk back to its position of mediocrity and refuses to deal with any problems created by the Chief's misguided policies (even though the Commission is supposed to be the head of this Department). What we must do is keep the City Council informed and let the public know how counterproductive things have become. Once this complaint system affects our level of service, then either the Chief or City Council will have to modify this lunacy.

Did you see the recent *Daily News* expose on the ballooning overtime budget of our Department? First of all, it amazes me that we could have such a problem with overtime now because everyone I know can't get OT if their life depended on it. But, this article focused on individual overtime amounts without looking at why it was necessary. I suspect that some of the OT is necessarily being spent on things such as homicide investigations and court, but way too much time is being spent on our new complaint system, and too little time is being spent on real police work. Sooner or later the Chief is going to realize that this is an obscene waste of taxpayers' money and drastic changes must be made.

I received a humorous letter from a citizen who lives out in the Valley (he preferred that I not use his name because he has come to realize that our Department's management will be extremely vindictive against anyone who speaks out against their policies). In this letter, he speaks of our new complaint procedure from the point of view of the leader of the local gangs. He states tongue in cheek, "It finally happened! It's a dream come true! Thanks to our new Chief of Police, gone are the days that we would complain about cops being too effective in stopping our fun. The Chief has passed a new regulation that makes them document and investi-

gate all complaints whether or not it's true or even if it doesn't violate any rule! And what's better is that we can make these complaints any way we want; in person, in writing, on the phone, or even on their new web site. And we don't have to give them our names or anything! Do you know what this means for all of our homeboys? It couldn't be better if we wrote it ourselves! Do you know how many complaints we can make if we want? The sky is the limit! We will keep them so busy that the last thing they will be worrying about is our fun little activities. So, start right now. Pick out the cops who cause you the most hassle and start making complaints. Before you know it, these guys will be eating out of our hands because their personnel packages will start looking like the phone book. They know damn well that their bosses won't promote them and will stick them on some desk job if we complain enough. So, listen up! I predict that we will be able to do whatever we want unless some do-gooders scare the Chief into changing things. So, keep this plan quiet except for those sissy reporters at the *L.A. Times* and the lawyers at the ACLU. They will back us up no matter how much it hurts the regular people out there. Happy days are here again!"

You may think that this little ditty is funny, but it is deadly accurate as to the state of affairs in this City. Most people don't know or don't care about this situation. But, I guarantee that it will reach a point where drastic changes will have to be made, not for the benefit of those hard-working and honest officers being victimized, but for the economic and social stability of the City. This town cannot afford a police force that is unwilling or unable to be pro-active and effective. Without changes, we will quickly become such an institution.

Along these same lines, it is becoming abundantly clear that the management of this Department is developing a seige mentality and is willing to do and say anything to protect themselves and the Department from taking blame for poor policies and mismanagement. Take, for example, a lawsuit that is currently being heard in one of our local Superior Courts. One of our more colorful officers is suing a number of his coworkers and super-

continued on page 11

NOTICE: The LAPPL is affiliated with the following organizations on the national and state level.

NAPO



National Association of Police Organizations representing nearly 220,000 police officer members in 4,000 police associations nationwide.

CCLEA

California Coalition of Law Enforcement Associations representing 28 California police officer associations.

SCALE

Southern California Alliance of Law Enforcement representing 19 police officer associations.

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- The Board of Directors reserve the right to edit submissions and/or include Editor's Notes to any submitted materials.
- Inquiries regarding letters or articles submitted but not published may be directed to the chairperson of the Thin Blue Line Committee/Editor: Lenny Muñoz who can be reached at (213) 251-4554 to discuss those matters.
- Deadline for printed materials is the 6th of the month for publication in the following month's issue (e.g., Dead line for the October issue is Sept. 6th).

TRADITION WITH VISION

TED HUNT
Secretary



In today's knowledge-based economy, practitioners often have far greater technical knowledge and skills than do their managers. Many successful organizations have begun to ask the practitioners about their managers. These for profit and non-profit corporations have established and added a bottom-up evaluation system to their traditional top-down evaluations. Rating from the "bottom-up" is called upward feedback. The theory is that upward feedback increases the effectiveness of a manager and, therefore, the effectiveness of the organization.

Scientific studies clearly show that upward feedback dramatically increases the effectiveness of an organization. We also believe the promotional boards, those who make decisions about who will and who will not be promoted, who will and who will not be an effective commanding officer, should have our input.

Have you ever wondered, "How did they promote that idiot to be a captain, (or commander or chief), don't they know?" A promotional board only knows what the candidate tells them, what is in the personnel package and, perhaps, some personal knowledge as to his/her reputation.

LAPD's current system to rate managers is a top-down only system.

Furthermore, commanding officers are rated on administrative tasks that have little or nothing to do with being a police leader. For example, commanding officers are rated on whether they complete their projects on time, whether they complete personnel complaints on time; and many of us wonder if one of the criteria is whether they have recently "dropped the hammer" on some innocent cop just to perpetuate the "burn-em-to-learn-em" theory of management by intimidation.

We have developed a rating protocol which is based on input from three sources. First, we studied both the academic and business literature to find out what are the characteristics, values, beliefs and actions that all leaders have in common.

Second we sought input from League members. Participants were asked two open-ended questions:

1. A good commanding officer does the following things and/or has the following characteristics.

2. A bad commanding officer does the following things and/or has the following characteristics.

The responses to the open-ended questions were correlated and a set of characteristics and behaviors were identified.

Finally, face-to-face or qualitative interviews were held with selected LAPD and non-LAPD police managers, with civic leaders, with rank-and-file officers, and with business persons.

All three of the data sources were then used to develop the questionnaire which will quantify the feedback to commanding officers. In addition, rank-and-file officers will also be able to add their own comments if they so desire.

We need to help recognize the good managers and get them promoted. At

the same time, we need to identify and expose those who only pretend to be managers. They should be made to take responsibility for their actions. We expect that our evaluation will be placed in the commanding officers' personnel package.

The primary function of LAPD is to provide police services, NOT to meet an artificial deadline for an irrelevant "make-work" project. We believe this methodology will truly hold managers accountable and help improve our Department.

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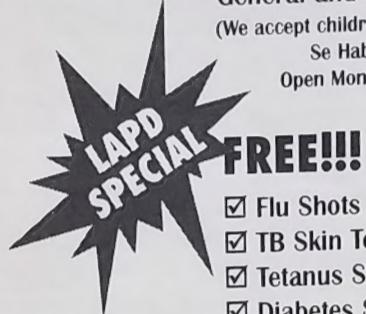
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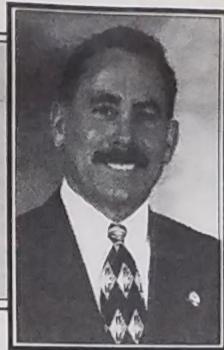
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PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

GARY MORGAN
Treasurer



I was sitting here trying to find something positive to write about in this month's article. I feel the same frustrations many of you experience month after month, with no apparent light at the end of the tunnel. We at the Board are accused of being out of touch with our members, not representing them on the important issues, and being self-serving for our own benefit (i.e., re-election). These allegations are far from the truth. I spend hours in this office every day taking calls from members and listening to their position or problems with incidents or issues currently facing each of you. The names seem to change, yet the problems or circumstances remain consistent.

We have entered an age of leadership through intimidation rather than positive reassurance. I only wonder where this attitude will take us in the coming years. I encourage each of you to study and strive for excellence and promote. You, the officer in the black and white, working detectives and field sergeants, will guarantee our future and success. Don't let the many obstacles we face today discourage your motivation for tomorrow.

Accountability - What Does It Really Mean?

The Department appears to be holding everyone accountable. The Chief says he's accountable, the deputy chiefs are accountable, the commanders are accountable, the captains are accountable, and this process works its way down to the lieutenants, the sergeants, the detectives, all the way down to the street cops. But what does it really mean?

I believe it should mean we are out here to do the very best job we can as individuals. I further believe each individual delivers a unique level of performance in various areas. Our job should be to make this City and the citizens who live within it as safe as humanly possible, to respond when they need us, and deliver them the very best of professional service. The problem arises when those individuals (who think they may be in charge) decide how we are going to achieve this perception or reality.

There are some captains out there who are more interested in making themselves look good, rather than their division or the Department. The objective should be the same, yet

some focus more on themselves, rather than what the end results might be. There is an appearance that numbers might be the overall answer to show the performance or accomplishments of a division. This perception is once again wrong and has a detrimental effect on both performance, morale and community-based policing. I believe the mission statement for the Los Angeles Police Department speaks for itself:

"Our mission is to work in partnership with all of the diverse residential and business communities of the City, wherever people live, work, or visit, to enhance public safety and to reduce the fear and incidence of crime."

By working jointly with the people of Los Angeles, the members of the Los Angeles Police Department and other public agencies, we act as leaders to protect and serve our community.

To accomplish these goals, our commitment is to serve everyone in Los Angeles with respect and dignity. Our mandate is to do so with honor and integrity."

I would encourage all of our command staff to look at the big picture here, and do what is really in the best interest of both the Department and its employees. Remember, it's better to lead by example and have others follow your lead than to try to intimidate and force them into a reaction. The reaction you receive may not be in your best interest or the Department's. I encourage you not to lose sight of your leadership responsibility and what that responsibility can bring to our organization.

The lesson here is simple. Numbers don't make this Department, people do. Remember the old saying: "Treat

others the way you would want them to treat you."

Police Relief And The Police Protective League

The Board of Directors from Police Relief has taken a number of positive steps toward improving both the image and service to our members. I would like to think this was done with a sincere desire to improve in those areas without the motivation of the Protective League. I have spoken with Charlie Beck, Vice President, Police Relief Board, concerning many issues and have been assured the Police Relief Board will attempt to work more closely with the Protective League in improving medical benefits and service to our members. I can honestly say that has always been my intent in pursuing these issues with Police Relief. I would also like to add that your Protective League Board of Directors will continue to review all possible medical plans and make our decision based on the membership's best interest from both a financial and service position.

Patrol Incentive Into Pension Retirement Benefits

Based on a recent Supreme Court ruling, August 14, 1997, *Ventura Sheriff's Department vs. Ventura County*, there may be a legal requirement (according to Charter language) that our patrol incentive would be used in calculating your pension-based benefits. The Board of Directors has authorized the firm of Hadden, Silver & Hadden (the same law firm who won the Ventura case) to pursue this litigation on behalf of Los Angeles Police Protective League members. The Board will keep you briefed on the status of this pending litigation.

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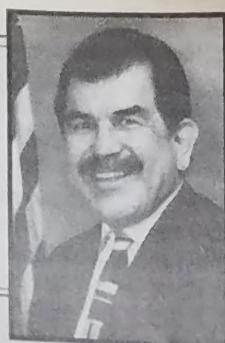
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I'M HERE TO WORK!

LENNY MUÑOZ



An LAPD Captain Oversteps His Bounds

Can you believe a Divisional O.I.C. (Officer-In-Charge), a Captain of Police on this Department, actually issued a written edict to all under his command to refrain from socializing in locations within his area licensed to serve alcoholic beverages? So if an officer desired to celebrate an anniversary or birthday with his or her beloved he/she would have to stay out of that geographic area. This Captain (who would be king) threatened to have his vice supervisors conduct sobriety checks on those who violated his mandate—never mind the absence of complaints alleging misconduct, such as drunk in public, disorderly conduct, or anything resembling conduct unbecoming an officer—all of this while the officers are on off-duty status. This would-be leader even took it a step further. He feels off-duty officers should not patronize ABC locations anywhere within the City limits. I guess this Captain forgot that the City of Los Angeles remains a part of the United States of America, a freedom-loving country in which there is no room for a dictator. Cooler heads prevailed and the League was notified by the Employee Relations Section on March 6, 1998, that the edict has been rescinded.

P.O.F.C.I.

On a more pleasant note, let me report on an event being planned by Peace Officers For Christ International. P.O.F.C.I. is a Christian organization comprised of peace officers from various agencies throughout the world. On Saturday, April 4, 1998, P.O.F.C.I. will host a free concert at Calvary Chapel, Pacific Coast, located at 6400 Westminster Blvd., in the City of Westminster, at 1900 hours. Seating is on a first come, first served basis. P.O.F.C.I. is currently planning a trip to Russia in July 1998, and is involved in outreach programs with police officers in other countries.

Along the same lines, concerned LAPD chaplains and officers present an LAPD Christian gathering on Saturday, May 2, 1998 at 6:30 pm in the LAPD Academy gymnasium. Music and light refreshments will be provided. For more information, call Sgt. Ron Batesole at (213) 485-2276.

Recent Happenings

On February 27, 1998, League President Dave Hepburn, General Counsel Hank Hernandez and I attended a luncheon hosted by the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (N.O.B.L.E.). The event was the 12th Annual Tribute to Black Achievers in

the Field of Law Enforcement at the Radisson Hotel in Culver City.

One of the honorees was veteran LAPD Police Officer and career-long League member, Detective III Evgelyn "Van" Nathan. She was honored not only for her exemplary career with L.A.P.D., but also for her many contributions to her church, her community, and to those less fortunate.



Det III Van Nathan flanked by Inglewood Police Chief Ron Banks (L) and LAPD Chief Bernard Parks.

nate than herself. She is a strong, active member of Big Sisters of Los Angeles and is also affiliated with the



LAPD's award winning Van Nathan with League Director Lenny Muñoz.

Oscar Joel Bryant Foundation, the Los Angeles Women Police Officers

Association and other community organizations. We were especially proud when Van acknowledged the support of the Protective League from the podium. Continued good luck in all of your endeavors, keep up the good work, and "We love you, Van."

Also in February, I attended the Latin American Law Enforcement Association general membership meeting, a *tardeada* held at the "old" Academy to raise scholarship funds for local youth, hosted by the Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association; and an installation dinner for the Executive Board of the Oscar Joel Bryant Foundation.

I mention these various events to let you, the membership, know that I continue in my assigned role as the League's Liaison to the various employee groups throughout the Department. I also maintain close contact with the Emerald Society, the Law Enforcement Association of Asian-Pacifics, the Los Angeles Women's Police Officers Association, and the Golden State Police Officers Association.

As head of the Minority Ad Hoc Committee, it is my intent to have the heads of these LAPD Employee Groups meet with us to discuss issues of mutual concern.

College Day

Thursday, March 5, 1998, marked the first ever "College Day", held at the Los Angeles Police Academy. The event was the brain child of League Director and P.O.S.T. Commissioner, Ted Hunt. The League took the lead in planning and hosting this important activity, but had a lot of help from LAWPOA, LALEY, the Golden

continued on page 11

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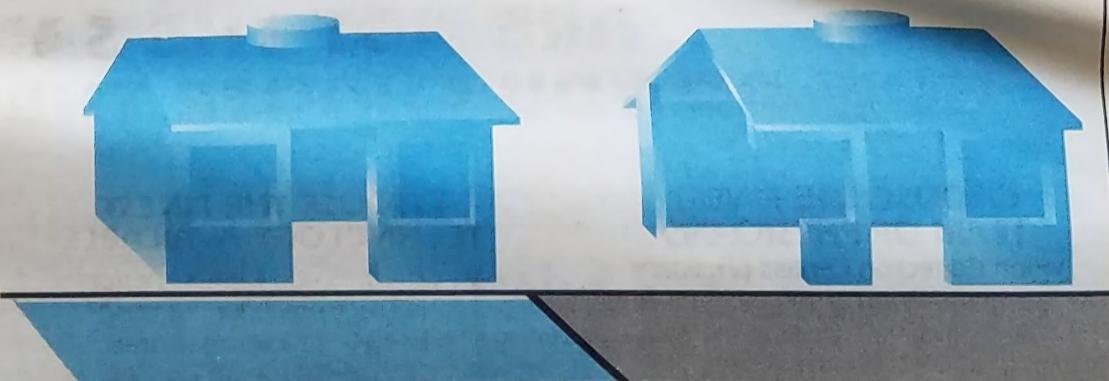
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CLIFF RUFF



The Chief Loves You?

When Bernard Parks so lovingly and compassionately created the 1.28 to make all of your lives miserable, he included something buried in the fine print to continue to give him total control and domination over your careers as long as he remains in charge. Special Order No. 1, 1998, addresses the recordation of complaints that are "other than sustained and are unrelated in nature or occurrence."

When an officer is accused of multiple allegations of misconduct and the investigation sustains one of the

allegations and unfounded multiple others, the Department maintains the right to place all of the unfounded allegations in your personnel file, unless the Department determines that the unfounded allegation should be excluded from the personnel file. The concerned officer has no voice or input in the decision. The Order dictates the control of your personnel file to the kind, caring, impartial people at IAD by stating, "The final determination as to the exclusions of allegations from a personnel file shall be made by Internal Affairs Group."

If you ever wonder why the Protective League has to seek outside relief it is because of the tyrannical management mentality of LAPD. An unfounded complaint means that it didn't happen. What possible valid reason could management have to track complaints that "didn't happen"?

During negotiations in the meet and confer process, the League requested that all unfounded complaints and all not guilty allegations from Board of Rights be redacted from any sustained complaints placed in an officer's personnel file. The Department refused to honor this very reasonable request. The Department alleged that it would take too much time to redact and remove unproven and unfounded information from an officer's file. But the same Department will spare no expense on man hours to pursue and investigate the most ridiculous inane allegations made against a police officer.

Simply stated, it appears that Bernard Parks will spare no expense to burn an officer, yet he won't lift a finger to help an officer who has been falsely or wrongly accused.

Another example of his generosity is when a complaint is classified as "no misconduct," it is still placed in the officer's TEAMS (computerized tracking file.)

Police officers want to do a good job. Somehow the Chief of Police does not think that morale is a concern of his. But as officers inspect their TEAMS files and personnel files to learn that they have a dossier full of unfounded, not guilty, and no misconduct entries, they will soon learn they are targeted for observation and monitoring.

When you throw in the "not resolved" complaints, you have the complete LAPD management profile of a "problem officer." LAPD managers are taught that "Where there is smoke, there is fire," and a full TEAMS dossier is indicative of a problem officer in the making. Career advancement will be predicated on who doesn't have a full dossier. The Chief insists that it won't happen that way, but watch what happens to you when you get too many entries in a short amount of time. A pre-programmed computer will spit your name out for counseling and analysis, even though nothing is sustained. You could be "freeway therapy" material real quick. Hey, it could happen to you.

Be careful out there. Do a good job and support the community that supports you. Maybe someday the Chief will support you on simple issues. Maybe someday the Chief will see the lunacy of his 1.28 system!

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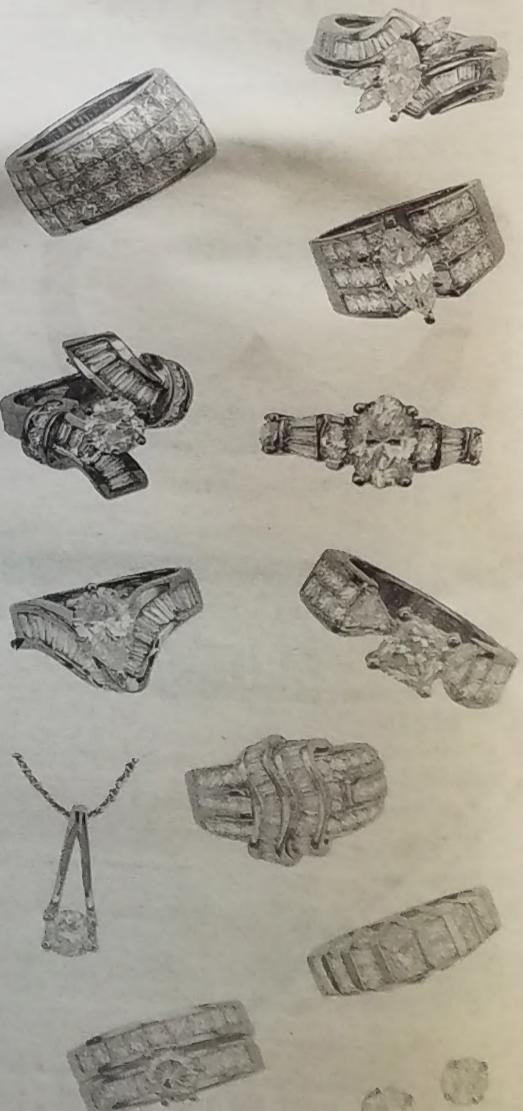


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PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS

TIM SANDS



Proposed Charter Reform

A word has been circulating around the Department corridors since Chief Parks took office. The word is **"accountability."** In an effort to achieve that accountability, Chief Parks has proposed some major Charter changes. In this month's article, I would like to review some of the proposed changes to actually see if Chief Parks is striving for accountability or for the control of power.

In February, Chief Parks proposed numerous Charter changes to the Police Commission, for their approval to forward them to the Charter Reform Commissions. Some of the recommendations are: (1) that a Charter Amendment be introduced that would require the Department of Pensions to medically retire officers who are no longer able to perform the essential functions of the job for their civil service classification (i.e., no light duty jobs); (2) that Deputy Chiefs and the Executive to the Chief of Police be exempt from civil service (group of "yes" men?); (3) to eliminate the right of officers to receive 30-

days pay when they have been charged and relieved from duty (what happened to being innocent until proven guilty?); (4) to add reduction in pay grade as a penalty; (5) to recommend the cost of representation and transcripts be transferred from the City to the union (eliminate Defense Reps); and finally, (6) that the Chief has the authority to select the officer's Defense Rep.

These are just six of many recommendations the Chief has made. Isolating just a couple of these recommendations, let's look at how they would affect our current discipline system. Under the current system, when an officer is charged with misconduct, an investigation ensues. When the investigation is completed, the findings are submitted to the Chief of Police. Based on these findings, and without hearing testimony or evidence, the Chief makes the decision on the officer's guilt or innocence. If the officer is found guilty by the Chief and the alleged misconduct is serious enough, the officer is relieved of duty and ordered to a Board of Rights. The officer now receives 30-days pay and hopes to complete the

Board of Rights before those 30 days transpire. (As noted, the Chief wants to delete the practice of giving 30-days pay.) The officer then selects a Defense Rep and picks his Board. The Board of Rights is comprised of two command staff officers and one civilian. The Board of Rights hears the testimony and evidence, and based on what they have heard, finds the officer guilty or innocent.

Under the Chief's new proposals, the officer would no longer receive 30-days pay and would have to pay for his own representation (i.e., the union would pay for his representation). The Chief also wants the authority to choose the officer's

Defense Rep. If these proposals are adopted, the internal discipline system of the LAPD will become completely unfair.

The system is unequal even now. Think about it. You have two command staff officers who know that the Chief of Police thinks an officer is guilty, due to the mere fact that the officer is at a Board of Rights. These two command staff officers are subordinates to the Chief of Police and are subject to his supervision (i.e., transfers, coveted assignments). These two command staff officers are going to tell the Chief of Police he was wrong and find an officer not guilty? Even with these unfair odds, officers are found not guilty approximately 15-20% of the time at Boards of Rights.

After reviewing the Chief's Charter Reform proposals, I have a question whether the Chief of Police is addressing accountability, or attempting to control the power. Charter Section 202 was implemented so that no one entity or person would control all the power. When one has that control, it leads to abuse of discretion.

I respect the office of the Chief of Police and what it stands for. However, I, along with the other Directors, feel that if some of the Chief of Police's proposals are implemented, it would not be fair or equitable to our membership. The LAPPL is fighting to stop some of these proposals. We are presently in negotiations with the Department to address Defense Reps and discipline issues. I feel we will be able to come to an equitable conclusion.

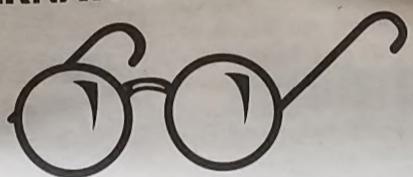
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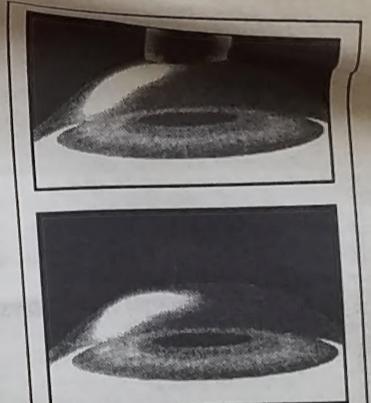
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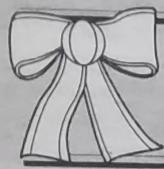
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DENNIS P. ZINE



Showdown Between Chief Parks And City Hall

The 36 dedicated and professional General Services Uniform Security Officers located at Los Angeles City Hall have been lobbying for sidearms since the 1992 L.A. riot. You may recall that during the riot, City Hall was attacked along with Parker Center and other City facilities. The security officers had to call in the LAPD to assist them with the rioters and looters who were attempting to burn down City Hall. Following the riot, the City permitted these peace officers to arm themselves only in time of a major emergency. This is like calling out the Fire Department after the house burns down! If you have ever visited City Hall, you may recall seeing a security officer in an LAPD blue uniform, wearing a badge and yellow shoulder patches which read, "City of Los Angeles, Peace Officer." The 36 City Hall officers have been a familiar sight at City Hall since they were first established in 1925. I believe that this is the year Captain Bill "Wog" Gartland joined the Department! The battle lines were drawn between the security officers and Chief Bernard Parks, who opposed the arming of these uniformed City peace officers. Your League supported the City Hall officers and lobbied the Council to support the arming of these officers who not only provide security for the Mayor, City Council, and other employees working at City Hall, but to the Los Angeles Mall and the area known as the Spring Street Corridor. This includes the belly of downtown Los Angeles along Third, Fourth, Sixth, Seventh, Main, Winston and Spring Streets. This area is well known for drug dealers and other odd-ball in-

dividuals you may see on an upcoming *Jerry Springer* show.

Since hundreds of private security guards with questionable backgrounds and minimal training are permitted to be armed, it did not make sense to prohibit professional, trained and experienced City peace officers from being armed.

In the end, the Chief lost the fight and the security officers won. The vote was 12 to 2. Twelve Council-members sided with the officers and your League. As usual, Councilmember Rita Walters voted against the motion. Nothing new for the lady who will do everything she can to hamper the mission of law enforcement in Los Angeles.

Congratulations to the General Services Security Officers for their success in this matter.

Is this defeat for the Chief the beginning of the end of his tyranny? Probably not. The Chief is still enjoying his honeymoon with many officials at City Hall.

School Police Officers Win Approval To Carry Shotguns

The Los Angeles Unified School Board voted five-to-two to arm school police officers with shotguns. Your League supported this measure over the objections of School Board President Julie Korenstein and Board Member Valerie Fields.

The following thank you letter was received from the school association president:

Dear Dennis:

On behalf of the L.A. School District Police Officers Association, I want to take this opportunity to thank you and your association for your support of our shotgun proposal. As you may know, this issue was approved at the Monday, February 23, 1998 School Board Meeting by a 5 to 2 vote.

This basic tool will be a valuable resource/choice in protecting the

(Elected Charter Commission Community Meetings)		LOCATION
DATE	ISSUE	
March 30	Proposals for provisions of the Charter concerning public safety.	Council District #3 Valley
April 13	Proposals for provisions of the Charter concerning neighborhood councils.	Council District #15 San Pedro
April 27	Continuation of discussion of proposals concerning neighborhood councils; Proposals for provisions of the Charter concerning the Commission system.	Council District #8 South Central
May 11	Proposals for provisions of the Charter concerning the proprietary departments.	Council District #10 Mid Wilshire
May 26	Proposals for provisions of the Charter Concerning planning (not including neighborhood councils).	Council District #13 Hollywood
June 1	Proposals for provisions of the Charter concerning civil service and personnel.	Council District #2 Valley
June 8	Proposals for provisions of the Charter concerning the City Attorney's office and for provisions of the Charter concerning future Charter revisions.	Council District #14 Northeast
June 15	Proposals for provisions of the Charter concerning pensions, debt management and procurement.	Council District #6 Westside
June 22	Proposals for provisions of the Charter concerning public works and infrastructure; proposals for parks and recreation.	District Council #9 Downtown L.A.
June 29	Proposals for provisions of the Charter concerning Los Angeles Unified School District.	Council District #7 Valley

safety of those we are sworn to protect as well as an officer safety advantage. Your support and professionalism is greatly appreciated and we look forward to working with you in the future. If we can be of any assistance to you please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Pablo Quezada Jr., President
Los Angeles Unified School District
Police Officers Association

LAPD Shotguns On Motors

It has taken years for the Department to finally realize that a shotgun should be mounted on LAPD motorcycles. Only after the North Hollywood Bank of America shootout did the Department approve shotguns for LAPD Motors. The program started

nate light-duty positions. The Chief has asked for a number of Charter changes that will hurt you and your career. If you thought that the 1.28 complaint policy is causing you anger, you should see the proposed Charter changes being proposed by the Department. Get involved and make a statement. Your career is at stake!

(Please see ECCC meeting chart)

May They Rest In Peace

Our thoughts and prayers go out to our colleagues at the California Highway Patrol who lost two state traffic officers during an El Niño storm. Thirty-nine-year-old Officer Rick B. Stovall and 40-year-old Officer Britt T. Irvine died after their unit tumbled into the Cuyama River when the road washed out as they responded to a



Photo by: Dennis P. Zine

with a bang and suddenly came to a halt when it was discovered that the shotguns were falling out of the shotgun racks! As the photo shows, we have nice shotgun racks on the motorcycles, but no shotguns. Another fine example of the inferior equipment issued to LAPD personnel.

Charter Reform

The Elected Charter Reform Commission will be conducting meetings in many communities of Los Angeles in the upcoming months. The following list will provide you with specific meeting information. I urge you to attend a meeting that is convenient for you and voice your concerns for Charter Reform.

The Chief wants to reduce the number of penalty days prior to termination for misconduct and elimi-

nate light-duty positions. The Chief has asked for a number of Charter changes that will hurt you and your career. If you thought that the 1.28 complaint policy is causing you anger, you should see the proposed Charter changes being proposed by the Department. Get involved and make a statement. Your career is at stake!

(Please see ECCC meeting chart)

Dates To Remember

April 1st is April Fools' Day. What fool came up with the new 1.28 complaint policy?

April 11th is the Passover holiday for our Jewish friends.

April 12th is Easter Sunday for our Christian friends.

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MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL COUNSEL

HANK HERNANDEZ



A Few Digs By A Panel Attorney

The following article was submitted by League panel attorney Patrick J. Thistle regarding his recent experience while representing an officer before a Board of Rights.

The Los Angeles Police Department has rules. Most of the rules are designed to regulate the conduct of Police Department employees. You are expected, under penalty of discipline, up to and including termination, to obey those rules. Some Department rules are designed to regulate the conduct of those who enforce and make decisions regarding discipline, and those rules also define the due process to which you are entitled in the disciplinary and other processes. Just as you, management of the Department is obligated to obey all Department rules lest there be adverse consequences. Denials of the benefit of rules which define due process often result in litigation because once you have exhausted appeals to management, you have no other alternative but to appeal to a court for relief. Over the years, the League has been in the forefront of both legislative efforts to push for the enactment of such rules and enforcing them in the courts for your benefit.

One of those rules which management is obligated to obey, and which defines due process, is Board of Rights Manual Rule 308. Rule 308 reads, in pertinent part (lawyer talk for "we left out the boring parts"), as follows: **"NO EX PARTE CONTACT. Except as may be necessary to arrange the hearing . . . neither any member of the Board, nor the Board itself, may have any ex parte contact with any witness, any party, any representative of any party, the Department Advocate presenting the case, or the Defense Representative. All evidence and argument must be presented to the Board in the presence or (in the event of telephonic "meetings") in the hearing of representatives of all parties . . ."**

For purposes of this article, lets make it even more simple by leaving out some other boring parts, so the Rule reads: **"Except [when] necessary to arrange the hearing, [no] member of the Board . . . may have any contact with . . . the Advocate. All evidence and argument must be presented to the Board in the presence or hearing of the representatives of all parties."**

I have represented many officers before Boards of Rights. On occasion, the Advocate or a Board member has inadvertently made some statement which told me that there had been some ex parte communication between the Advocate and the Board without knowledge of the defense. It has happened enough that it occurs to me that ex parte communications between Board members and the Advocate must be fairly common. Once a Captain told

me recently that, "It happens all the time. We couldn't get this job done without the help of the Advocate." I'm not going to go through the usual platitudes by saying I'm sure that most Board members strictly adhere to the rule which forbids ex parte contact with Department representatives, including the Advocate, because I don't believe it.

When you think about it, if either a Board member or an Advocate is approached by the other who attempts to engage in communication about a particular case which involves anything but the time, date, and place of the Board, there is a duty on the part of the second party to immediately notify the other that misconduct is occurring or has occurred, and there is an absolute duty to immediately notify the defense of the violation, leaving it up to the defense to take whatever action it deems appropriate under the circumstances. That "something" could be to permit the defense to partake in the discussion or, under certain circumstances, to make immediate notification the Chief of Police with a request that the Board be dissolved and a new Board appointed. If the communication comes during deliberations, and the communication has anything to do with the guilt or innocence of the Accused, it follows that absent, perhaps, full and complete disclosure of all ex parte communication and a reopening of the Board for the taking of additional evidence, the decision of the Board must be vacated. In some cases, there is no recourse but to vacate the proceedings and begin again with a new Board of Rights.

In a recent case, after a lengthy (and I do mean lengthy) Board of Rights hearing, the defense (the Defense Rep, attorney, and Accused) and the Advocate ("prosecutor") submitted written closing arguments, whereupon the Board (which, by the way, included two attorneys), retired (another legal term meaning "left the room") to deliberate on twenty five counts of alleged misconduct against the Accused. Before retiring, the Board announced that it would take several days to peruse the evidence, read the closing arguments (over one hundred pages with countless references to the record), deliberate on a decision, and prepare findings.

During the conduct of the Board, it was determined that the Board Chairman had contacted a potential witness concerning the testimony of a witness, but because of a certain ruling by the Board (later ignored), the potential violation was not pursued at that time. However, during the Board's deliberation, and unbeknownst to the defense, the Board Chairman conversed with the Advocate in violation of Rule 308. The Board Chairman went so far as to send an e-mail to the Advocate in which he directed the Advocate, among other things, to obtain information from

persons who had not testified at the Board of Rights.

At this point, you might be saying, "Gee, this sounds like a question on a Department oral," followed by, "You are the Advocate, and knowing about Rule 308, what would you do?"

However, this not being an oral examination, the Advocate did what Advocates do in real life - he casually mentioned to the Defense Rep that the Board had requested information regarding one issue, but failed to mention about ninety percent of the questions from the Chairman on the e-mail and, oops, he forgot to mention that one request was in writing in the form of e-mail (perhaps to save photocopy costs?). Grossly misinformed concerning the extent of the ex parte correspondence and communication, the defense hurriedly provided the Advocate with references to the record on that "one issue" about which he had been informed.

When the Board reconvened to read its decision and rationale, the defense asked the Board Chairman to divulge all ex parte communication between the Board and the Advocate during the proceedings. Up to that point, the defense had no idea that there had been written correspondence between the Chairman and the Advocate, nor the extent of any other communication during the proceedings or during the deliberation phase. When confronted with the request, and to the surprise of the defense, the Chairman produced the e-mail correspondence and a faxed reply from the Advocate, but refused to comply with the request for a full disclosure of all ex parte communications with the Advocate and refused our request to question the Advocate under oath. After the Board read the decision and rationale, finding the Accused guilty of a majority of the allegations, the defense filed a Motion to Vacate the Findings based on the alleged misconduct of the Board and Advocate.

Perhaps in anticipation of further legal challenge, the Board Chairman issued a written ruling denying the motion to vacate the findings. The ruling contained the same type of language which we see in the typical "Skelly response" which the Chief of Police typically ignores. In this case, the Board Chairman maintained that the correspondence and communication had nothing to do with the outcome, the Board had already made the complete decision before they sent out for the information,

blah, blah, blah, etc. But in all the b.s. contained in that document, there was not one admission that Board of Rights Manual Rule 308 was violated. Not one admission, but plenty of excuses, something in the nature of too busy, family sick, sun ate our computer disk, dog ate our homework, my schedule was too crowded with important meetings and stuff, I'm too important, we didn't have the record with us, blah, blah, blah, etc. Try this the next time they summon you to IAD or send you to a Board of Rights for violating one of the rules. Or call me, I'll send you a list of these "acceptable" excuses.

From these people who demand rigorous honesty, and will charge you with misconduct at the drop of a PR-24 if you so much as deny an allegation when you are not even under oath, not one admission that what they did constituted a violation Rule 308. From these people who, through the City Attorney, go to court time after time repeating the line that police officers are held to a higher standard, dishonesty cannot be tolerated, those who are dishonest are a liability, they cannot be trusted to be police officers once they lie and deny, etc. blah, blah, blah. I have heard it from the City Attorney a hundred times.

The matter was brought to the Chief of Police, you know -- the one with the zero-tolerance policy, who recently ordered that all complaints of every kind whatsoever be formally investigated and recorded for posterity to track "problem officers" (a Departmental term meaning "those who don't wear stars and bars and are out there doing their jobs") -- that Chief. And what did the Chief of Police do with the information? You got it. He fired the Accused without comment on the merits of the case or the outrageous violation of Rule 308.

Lets fantasize for a minute. An Advocate reports to his supervisor that he/she was approached by a Commander who spoke to him about the merits of a case pending before a Board of Rights in the absence of the defense. And the supervisor immediately reports same to the Chief, the Board is dissolved, and a new Board is appointed with instructions to avoid ex parte communication. Yea, I see that happening. And, isn't that Cindy Crawford over there asking me for a date? Be safe out there. League when in doubt.

Be safe out there. League when in doubt.

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by Gary Ingemunson

"Never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

- John Donne

You are on the stand testifying at a Board of Rights. You were the complaint investigator. You can not imagine that anyone could have any *more* questions about this case that you investigated. The Department Advocate and the Defense Representative have dragged details about the complaint out of you that even you didn't know you still knew. Now the questioning passes to the Board members. The Chairman of the Board asks about your experience, the number of cases you had handled prior to this case and other foundational questions. You are experienced so the answers are easy. The answer to the next question will not be so easy.

"Did you find the complainant to be truthful in your opinion?" The Chairman asks.

"Objection," cries the Defense Representative, jumping to his feet. "That is the ultimate question the Board is supposed to decide."

"Overruled," the Chairman says. "You may answer."

The Defense Representative sits back down and looks dourly at you as if he knows what your answer will be. After all, it was your investigation that was used as the basis to send the accused officer to a Board of Rights in the first place. You realize that also, but the fact is, you *didn't* believe the complainant. You wrote the report accurately, but there is no box to

check for your sixth sense and intuition. The complaint was essentially one on one. The officer's Captain, the Bureau, and the Chief of Police decided the accused officer was guilty, but you had doubts. You were there for the questioning of the complainant during the investigation and it didn't feel right. Now, under oath, you are being asked about your opinion. You have nothing concrete either way, but you *do* have an opinion.

The Advocate waits confidently for your answer. You know the Department expects you to back the position the Department has already decided was correct, in other words, that complainant is telling the truth and the officer is lying. So you could waffle and say something like "I couldn't find any reason not to believe the complainant" or maybe "I don't know, deciding that issue is for the Board to decide." Or, you could be completely honest and take the chance that certain people on the Department will criticize you for undermining the Department's case. You know that a sixth sense and intuition based opinion does not hold up well under cross examination. Everyone in the Board room is waiting for your answer. What now?

The Harder Ethical Choice

The Department is big on ethics. What this means as a practical matter is ethics in relationship to the

larger world out there. Ethical arrests, ethical reports, ethical testimony, ethical behavior with the public, ethical interaction with fellow employees. These ethical choices are made easier because they are sanctioned and encouraged by the Department. No matter how difficult the ethical decision may be, there is a large support base in which you live and work that approves of your decision.

But what about when the ethical decision runs contrary to the direction the Department is heading? This is a different situation completely. Suddenly there is no support base. You are on your own. It may be worse than that, you may actually suffer negative consequences. Backlash. Lost trust from management. The golden halo you formerly had might be transformed into a dark cloud. What then?

Fortunately, this Department bristles with people who still call it like they see it. Complaint investigators have testified against the Department's case when necessary and will continue to do so. Furthermore, even under pressure from the Chief of Police, captains and above continue to deliver not guilty verdicts to accused officers when they determine it is just. I would like to name names here, but accolades from me may not be career enhancing and the last thing I want to do is cause the 'call it like they see it' group any problems, however subtle.

Unfortunately, there are those on the Department whose ethics blow with the wind no matter what the direction is as long as the direction will ultimately lead up. This type of Department employee loudly bangs the ethical drum when the beat matches that of the Chief of Police, but folds like a cheap pup tent when a decision might be controversial. This type of employee is also the most likely to abuse the rights of fellow employees either through ignorance or their own disposition. They are on a mission and little things like the right to representation, opportunity to Skelly, employee privacy, due process and other such trivial matters pale in comparison to their larger vision of Department goals and mandates. It is usually on this field that the League and the Department collide in dissent.

The current 1.28 complaint procedure crisis magnifies most of the problems facing officers today. When

complaints accusing officers of improperly using laser beams must go on paper and be investigated, we are in trouble. But if the Department is willing to take this kind of complaint, why can't the 1.28 be used to document abuses of employee rights? Why can't the supervisor that orders an officer into a complaint interview without sufficient time to find a qualified defense representative be rewarded with a 1.28? Why can't the commanding officer who gives an officer six hours to complete a Skelly on an investigation that took the Department nearly a year to complete get a 1.28? Why can't the complaint investigator that feels a need to ask personal irrelevant questions in a complaint interview get a 1.28? Why can't Department advocates who do not ensure an accused officer gets timely discovery to prepare his defense get a 1.28?

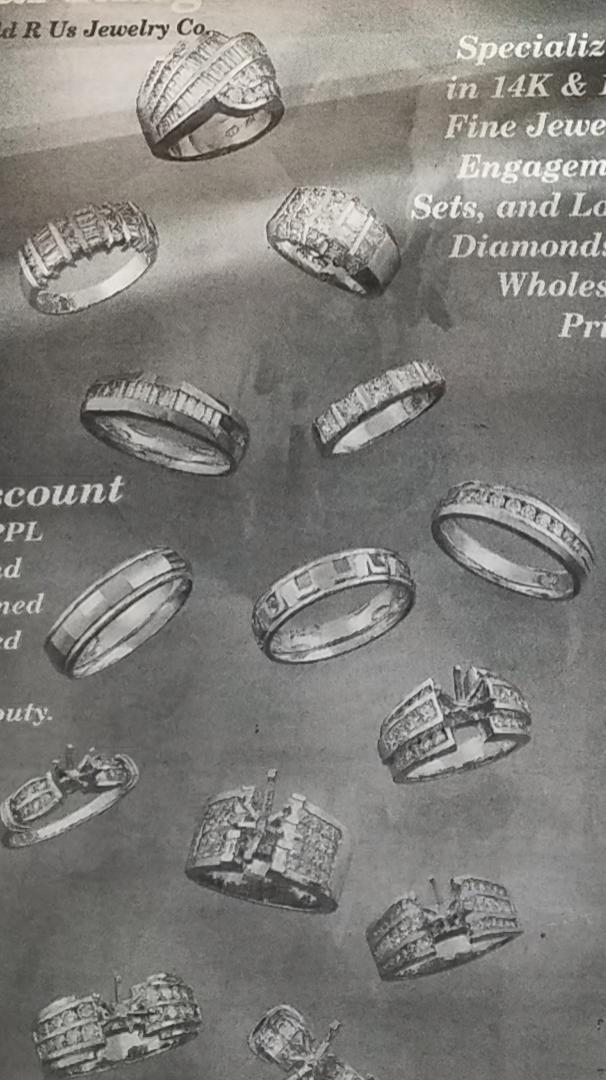
Remember, the 1.28 special order says that the Department will accept complaints from any source at any time virtually for any reason. Isn't the abuse of an employee's rights at least as important as documenting an officer's frown when he writes a ticket? It is, of course, likely that the Department will not take the complaint seriously, if past action can be used as an indicator, but what has changed is the Department's ability to submarine the complaint. The Department's own rules require that the complaint be documented.

Maybe if a new wind (like a 1.28 blizzard) hits those whose ethics blow with the wind, their behavior will be changed. After all, we are told, the purpose of attaching all these complaints to your serial number via TEAMS even if the complaint is not sustained is to give management the opportunity to see if an officer is in need of counseling or training. You know, document smoke in case there is a fire and all that stuff. People on the rise hate negative things attached to their serial numbers. Maybe this prospect will make them think again about abusing an officer's rights.

The surest test of the fairness of a rule is to see if the rule makers apply the rule to themselves. If management thinks this is unfair, officers everywhere should hear warning bells.

Be legally careful out there. *

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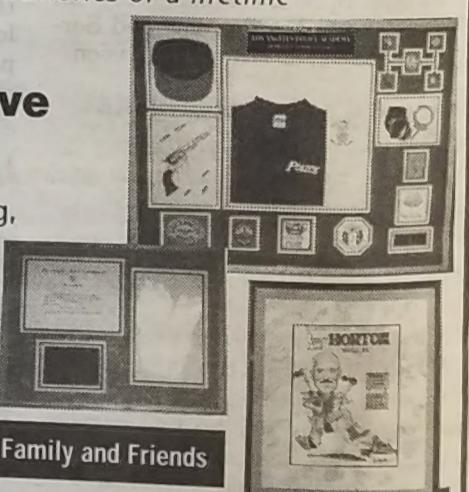
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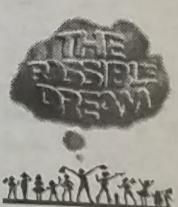
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Fullerton

continued from page 2

riors for violating his rights. Evidence has been produced that clearly shows that this officer's rights were violated by his fellow officers and supervisors because he was a "problem officer." The problem is that this was not dealt with by management in the manner that you would expect. Looking for a fair and straightforward investigation into the matter and let the cards fall where they may? What are you, Alice In Wonderland? Not only were the initial improprieties covered up by management, but management also attempted to influence the investigation of the accused officer's actions so as to "deal" with him appropriately. This means find him guilty no matter what the facts. After all, he is a "problem officer," and we must use all means at our disposal to rid our Department and City of this vile employee, even if it means trashing his rights and lying about the facts.

Let me read to you part of a letter I received from the Internal Affairs investigator assigned to this case. He states, "I am writing to express my utter disbelief and disappointment with the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Police Department. After 17 years of service to this community and this Department, I have never acted in a manner which would bring dishonor or distrust to my profession. I have never conducted an investigation that was not completed to the best

of my ability. Yet, I am being accused of major violations of trust and honesty by the Department that I so diligently served.

"The City of Los Angeles is being sued as a result of my investigation. I did my job, which I thought was the honest collection of the truth. Yet, because I did my job and located an independent witness that destroyed the Department's version of their case, I am now accused of tampering with evidence, coaching a witness, feeding him answers, and conspiring with the accused officer in order to find him innocent. It was my job to knock on all the doors and find out the truth. But, when the truth wasn't what management wanted to hear, I became the bad guy.

"Now that this complaint has turned into a lawsuit and probably will cost the City money, they decided I was expendable, that I was no longer a truthful person, that I cannot be trusted, that "experts" can testify that I tampered with the evidence. I find it interesting that I am accused of wrongdoing when Internal Affairs lost two copies of the critical interview that opposed the Department's case. I thought I was being overly cautious when I had three copies made. But, guess what? I needed them. Why were the critical tapes against the Department lost? It seems when the evidence is against the officer nothing is ever "lost." But in this case.....

"I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the League Board of Directors and Hank Hernandez, for supporting me and helping me

through this ordeal. To those who think they don't need the League because they will never do anything wrong, good luck, because you are expendable, too."

I have known this officer for a very long time on a professional basis. I have always known that he was completely dedicated to the Department and as honest as the day was long. It seems that this has little to do with how the Department deals with a situation. This is just one example of many that tells the tale of lack of personal integrity on the part of management and administrative corruption on the part of the system. Corruption may be a harsh word, but it is to the point. When the truth doesn't matter; when innocent officers pay the price for telling the truth; when managers hide behind the system and lie to carry out their version of "justice," then this Department is no better than the criminals it is supposed to apprehend.

Another officer was subpoenaed to testify on this same case. You would think that his responsibility as a sworn peace officer would be to truthfully testify to the best of his ability. Unfortunately, the Department has decided that he is committing misconduct by so testifying, and has initiated a personnel complaint against him. Does the truth count around here anymore?

In another case, the League is funding a lawsuit on behalf of several supervisors who were involuntarily transferred and given substandard evaluations because they complained about misconduct by their supervisor.

The original investigation was conducted internally by one of the true gentlemen of honor of our Department, Commander Keith Bushey. Unfortunately, Commander Bushey left our Department and became the Marshal of the County of San Bernardino. Well, Bushey conducted his investigation and determined that the two sergeants had a valid complaint and that they had been retaliated against for lawful and proper actions. Bushey sent his report to then-Chief Williams, who did not like the report at all. In fact, he ordered Bushey to change his findings and recommendations. Bushey refused to make the changes, so the Department buried the report and, to this day, refuses to produce it as discovery in the lawsuit. Soon thereafter Bushey was removed from his high-profile position as Commanding Officer of Personnel Division and relegated to a do-nothing job with no command responsibility. This effectively ended his career with our Department. After all, how can a Chief have confidence in a subordinate who insists that the truth be paramount over the party line? Valiantly, Bushey did his duty and testified to the truth at the trial. Luckily, this Department has no control or means to retaliate against him like they do against so many others.

I would like to tip my hat to a man of integrity and courage, Keith Bushey. He personifies the Marine Corps motto, "Semper Fidelis," which means "Always Faithful" faithful not only to your friends and department, but faithful to your values and own self. Keith Bushey is a man of character and principle, and it is a travesty to have lost one of our true leaders, only because he insisted on honesty and truth.

*

Muñoz

continued from page 5

State Police Officers Association, and the Academy staff, among others.

Over 50 institutions of higher learning had booths set up with representatives to advise local law enforcement, sworn and non-sworn, on the many educational programs available. I was there all day and my educated guess is that close to 700 individuals took advantage of this wonderful opportunity to advance their education. Due to a family emergency, Director Hunt was unable to be present to witness first-hand the success of his program. Thanks to the League and Academy staff, all of whom worked hard to make the day a success. Special thanks go to Tom Kurz of West Los Angeles and Sergeant Medkoff of Training Division.

Heroic LAFD Firefighter, Captain John Dupee, Rest In Peace

Sincere condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of LAFD Fire Department Captain John Dupee, who was killed on March 8, 1998, while fighting a blazing inferno, but only after ensuring the safety of his firefighters. He died while protecting the community he had served for so long and so well. Our prayers are with him and his loved ones.

Mystery Cop Photo

Last month's mystery cop photo featured Officer Walter F. McWilliams, Serial No. 14123, and the winners were both Walt's former partners, John Sack, Serial No. 13147 and Neco Hansen, Serial No. 13656. This month's mystery cop is a bit more contemporary. Identify



Mystery photo of the month: Can you guess who this Lady Di look-alike is?

this active duty "Princess Diana" look alike and win a League logo package. Remember, only the first three correct answers get a package.

Helping Hand

The League has been informed of two employment opportunities in the law enforcement field. The Long Beach Community College District Personnel Commission is offering an open and promotional examination for College Police Lieutenant. The monthly salary is \$3,697.80 to \$4,564.12 and the application deadline is April 6, 1998. For more information, contact the Long Beach City College Job Hotline at (562) 932-4050.

The Santa Ana Police Department has two positions open for D.A.R.E. officers. The salary is \$2,782 to \$3,381 per month. Please call the Santa Ana Job Information Line at (714) 647-6500 or call Lenny Muñoz at the League office.

Hepburn

continued from cover page

the League's position on each of the points addressed by the Department. Although the Police Commission gave me all the time I needed to go through our recommendations, they chose not to take positions of their own and passed both the Department's recommendations and the League's recommendations on to the Charter Commissions.

On March 2, Chief Parks, several of his staff, and I appeared at the Committee on Delivery of Services of the Elected Charter Commission (Dennis P. Zine serves on the Committee). That Committee was assigned the task of looking at public safety issues for the Elected Commission. Again, each side presented their Charter reform proposals and there was a healthy debate regarding some of the more critical points. The Committee ap-

peared to understand the philosophical basis for our positions and was open minded to our suggestions for Charter Reform.

The next step is for the Committee to formulate its own recommendations for consideration by the full Elected Charter Commission.

There are major issues to be addressed in Charter Reform governed by how the City is to succeed or fail. The movement in general may have a significant impact on the move for secession in the San Fernando Valley and other City communities. The Protective League will be working to ensure that the interests of the sworn members of this Department are protected and, to the greatest extent possible, the Charter is improved to reflect those interests.

*

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POLITICAL FRONTLINE



Political Frontline is a regular feature of the Thin Blue Line. We encourage you to submit articles for publication. Deadline information can be found under 'Editorial Policies' on Page 2 of this issue.



The League has endorsed Councilman Richard Alarcon for State Senate. Board members Dave Hepburn, Gary Fullerton, Dennis P. Zine and Lenny Muñoz join Councilman Alarcon and staff member Annette Castro for a lunch meeting to discuss issues of concern to League members.

Just Across 10th Street

Across 10th Street, directly west of the California State Capitol is the Peace Officer's Memorial. During May of each year, officers from all over the state gather in Sacramento to remember those who have fallen in the line of duty including LAPD officers.

Revering and remembering our dead is a very important part of the police world. It's a time when we share our most sensitive feelings and officers who would otherwise laugh in the face of adversity and death, are brought to tears and choke with emotion. It's during this time that we learn who our friends are.

On the back side of the Police Memorial, cast in bronze, are the names of those who have been major contributors to the construction of the monument to our brothers and sisters. The League's name is proud and prominent along with the names of nearly every police association in the state. There are also a few corporate sponsors like 7-Eleven and Motorola. But the name of Gray Davis stands out. Why would a public servant make the sacrifice to be a founding sponsor of the Peace Officer's Memorial?

Just like the rest of us, Gray Davis has dedicated his life to public service. Sure, he's done okay financially, but he is no

millionaire. So why was he among the first to contribute to the construction of the Peace Officer's Memorial? Why has he



League Director Lenny Muñoz, Officer Annette Olivas and Lt. Governor Gray Davis at the 1997 Candle Light Vigil at the State Capitol during peace officer memorial services. Lt. Governor Gray Davis comforts surviving family of LAPD Officer Mario Navidad, which includes Sandra, Brandon and Melissa Navidad.

consistently been at the funerals of our officers and at the annual memorial services? Why would he care? It is similar to explaining why you are a police officer. Sometimes it's just the right thing to do. One thing for sure is that you know who your friends are.

*

Councilman Hal Bernson's Eighteenth Annual Police Officers, Firefighters and Paramedics Recognition Luncheon



Photo by Dennis P. Zine

Los Angeles Police Department Recipients

The Dan Danko Special Annual Award

Police Officer III Douglas Jones - Foothill Area

Outstanding Police Officers of the Year

Police Officer III Kathy Bennett - Devonshire Area

Police Officer Joe Gomez - Valley Traffic Division

Police Officer II Jude Bella - West Valley Division

Police Officer II Kevin Foster - West Valley Division

Outstanding Detectives of the Year

Detective II John Fleming - Devonshire Area

Detective II Kenneth Ray Belt - Operations Valley Bureau CECAT

Councilmember Chick

Introduces Comprehensive Traffic Safety Initiative For Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES -- Calling traffic accidents "a rising threat to public safety," Los Angeles City Councilmember Laura Chick today introduced a package of three related City Council motions that represent a comprehensive effort to reduce traffic fatalities and city financial losses from accidents on city streets.

"With violent crime thankfully on the decline in Los Angeles, traffic accidents loom ever larger as a threat to public safety," said Councilmember Chick, who chairs the Council's Public Safety Committee. "With hundreds losing their lives annually in traffic accidents, the city needs to get smarter and more effective about how we assure safety on our roads."

In 1997, 209 people were killed and thousands were injured in automobile accidents in the city of Los Angeles. A recent survey conducted for the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) indicated that Los Angeles residents now rank the danger of speeding drivers as high as violent crime as an important issue for the LAPD to address.

Chick's first motion seeks to extend to traffic enforcement the LAPD's new Work Plan process (under which LAPD commanders set specific goals for crime reduction and share detailed information on crime trends). The motion asks LAPD to set a specific, quantitative goal of reducing the number of traffic accidents resulting in fatalities or serious injuries during 1998. Then, because traffic safety is not solely a police responsibility, the motion asks LAPD to work with the Department of Transportation, Planning Department, Bureau of Engineering, and Bureau of Street Maintenance in developing a comprehensive, interdepartmental strategy for achieving the city's goal. Chick has discussed this teamwork approach with Chief Parks and he has expressed interest in the idea.

"My proposal asks LAPD to set the goal for reducing traffic deaths and injuries," said Chick. "But achieving the goal will require many city departments to work together and change the way they do business."

*

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Letters to the Editor is a regular feature of *The Thin Blue Line*. Letters must be limited to 350 words or less. Deadline information can be found under 'Editorial Policies' on Page 2 of this issue.

Dear Editorial Staff:

This letter is to express my deep appreciation for the honor bestowed upon me by your fine publication. From books written, movies filmed and TV shows produced, the LAPD is almost legendary in the eyes of most of America. To be honored by such an agency speaks volumes on how much this award is appreciated by me. I was not there very long but was impacted greatly by the experience. I

have spent whirlwind days before but never one that encompassed so many miles.

The trip was also an eye opener of sorts for me. Before Lenny took me to the airport I was able to sit in on about 25 minutes of the union meeting. Prior to this, I assumed the only thing LAPD had in common with the Oregon State Police was we both carry guns that go bang and drive cars powered by fossil fuels. But after listening

to the concerns and statements made at the union meeting, I could have closed my eyes and been at one of ours. It dawned on me that though the facade is different, our hearts are in the same place and we are a lot alike -- except it rains more there. (That's a joke which, unfortunately, is no longer funny.)

In retrospect, let me say: I was very pleased when my poem appeared in our union paper *The Trooper News*, which, in its weak and non-committal format, pales to an insignificant blip when compared to *The Thin Blue Line*. To see it in your paper carried a lot more weight in the worthiness of it being published and elicited a great deal more pleasure from me. I always thought it was a good poem, but I wasn't sure if others read it the same as me.

Were it not written after the fact, one would think this letter is being written to butter you people up. If it is, I'm a day late and a dollar short, because I already got the plaque (chuckle). No, this one is from the heart. Writing poetry is one of the very few things I do with any competency at all and to be recognized for my efforts is fantastic.

So, Lenny, Helen and the rest of *The Thin Blue Line* family, please accept my heartfelt thanks. You certainly lit up my life.

Thanks again,
Senior Trooper Monty E. Ritchey
Oregon State Police - Portland

Los Angeles Times

Dear Editor:

I read with great interest the February 22, 1998 story in the *Los Angeles Times Sunday Magazine* entitled "Shrinking Heads, LAPD Style." As a 28-year member of the LAPD and a current member of the Los Angeles Police Protective League's Board of Directors, I appreciate the efforts of the Department's Behavioral Sciences Section, its staff psychologists and peer counselors. However, I wonder why the article never mentioned the Employee Assistance Program negotiated by the League for use by its membership.

As Kris Mohandie said, "It's all about trust." Many League members question the trust and confidentiality factors in an in-house, Department-run counseling system. As a result, the League, in cooperation with the City of Los Angeles and the Department, offer another option. Managed Health Network, Inc. administers a professional counseling program at no cost to the individual members. This very successful program guarantees confidentiality -- something the Department cannot provide.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,
Leonard Muñoz, Director
LAPPL

Dear Editor:

I wish to express our thanks for recent comments in the *Blue Line* regarding medical benefits, particularly as it applies to pharmacy coverage. A co-payment for my medication is one half of its cost when purchased here in Idaho. Prior to the change to

Wellpoint Pharmacy, it was quite a bit less. It appears we are being held up without a mask and gun since the change. We and many others will be watching and hoping that the League can do something.

Sincerely,
Michael J. Murphy
Carolyn J. Murphy

Dear Editor:

I want to thank the Risk Management Unit for putting on a very informative school concerning civil litigation. I, along with others I'm sure, appreciate their efforts to inform those involved in civil litigation. We were graced with top management verbiage by the top banana himself, COP Parks. This guy is real slick. He pontificated the party line and those going up into the sky with him all looked like bobbing heads of a hula doll on the back seat deck of a '56 Chevy. What shocked me and others was his answer to my question regarding discipline. He had justified the strict system in the public's interest, which in some cases we all could agree upon. However, when I asked him why he wished to elevate the status of evil people like Nazis, gang bangers, and white supremists to the same status of the John Q Taxpayer, I would think these taxpayers are insulted to be considered their equal. Why not require these truly evil people to sign a crime report along with their complaint or get out of the station? He replied that, "I don't know what an evil person is." He then moved on to other questions. I repeated you don't know what an evil person was. He said, "No." I was taken back and shocked to think the COP does not know what an evil person was. He must think Hitler, Stalin, Angelo Buono, gang bangers who kill indiscriminately, Klans people, and the North Hollywood bank robbers were not evil people. I wonder how can this mentality lead the nation's finest to water, let alone to fight crime. We are in big trouble folks, big trouble right herein Digital City. Perhaps the League should seriously look at making the COP an elected position just like the County Sheriff. At least he would be beholden to all who appoints, and not just to those

Victor M. Farhood
West Valley Division

Editor:

I can't begin to thank you enough for sending me the copies of the February *Blue Line*. Steve Gajda was my eldest grandson, my daughter's first son. She had three boys.

I had just lost my husband of 50 years the 28th of September, due to cancer. This was another angle in the making.

The Lord works in mysterious ways. So you can see why this was so important for me to see. Now I can give the rest of the family their own copy. The articles were so touching to read and pictures the same.

Thanks again,
Audrey Kranig
5060 Goldman Ave.,
Moorpark, CA

Dear Editor:

On December 9, 1997 my husband, Dick Bain #21506, had a heart attack while at work in Hollywood Division. We left work to take him to the emergency room at Cedars Sinai Hospital. Dick thought he was experiencing a respiratory complication stemming

continued on page 14

Letter to the Editor
continued from page 13

from a severe bout with the flu a week earlier. While in the emergency room, during the EKG, Dick had a full blown heart attack. I called the Community Relations Office in Hollywood Division where I work, and had them advise Dick's supervisor, Lt. Marbrey, Hollywood Detectives. Dick was now on his way to surgery for either an angioplasty or a coronary bypass. Less than an hour later, Lt. Ron Sanchez and Lt. Ron Marbrey walked into the waiting room of the Cardiac Unit of Cedar Sinai Hospital. They stayed with me for the rest of the evening. Together we waited for news on Dick and his prognosis for recovery. To my amazement, Chief Parks called personally. He expressed his concern for Dick and offered anything I needed, including a hotel room so I could stay close to Dick during this ordeal. Shortly after the Chief's call the entire Department began to arrive. Lt. Lutz from Medical Liaison, Commander Haggerty, personnel from the Chief's office, friends and co-workers from Hollywood Division, everyone was there to show support for us.

Dick's right coronary artery was completely blocked. He had an angioplasty with a stent implant done that night. Later, while he was in ICU, Deputy Chief Piersol paid Dick a visit and expressed his concern and support. Hollywood Division's Captain Connie Dial called and offered her support and help. During the following week she

made sure I was able to visit Dick in ICU daily. Lt. Ron Sanchez and Lt. Ron Marbrey who earlier had notified everyone, both gave me pager and home phone numbers so I could reach them 24 hours a day if needed. Hollywood Division's Sick and IOD Coordinator, Sgt. Bill Davidson handcarried Dick's 166 and verified his IOD status with Firm Solutions the day after his heart attack. Senior Lead Officer Dale Hickerson drove me back and forth to work and the hospital daily.

I am grateful to everyone for their support. The concern, the phone calls, the flowers and cards were all appreciated. I want to especially thank Hollywood Division's Captain Connie Dial, Lt. Ron Sanchez and Lt. Ron Marbrey, Sgt. Bill Davidson, my supervisor, Sgt. Bill Duke, all the Community Relations Office personnel and everyone else in Hollywood Division who showed such concern for me and Dick. I also want to thank the Chief and everyone else in the Department for their concern and support during this trying time.

Sincerely,
Officer Michelle C. Bain #23601
Hollywood Division

Juvenile Division, No Christmas Party, Lack of Morale... It Doesn't Add Up

Dear Editor:

This is in response to the letter published in the February issue of the Thin Blue Line. That letter was critical of the morale in Juvenile Division and specifically critical of Captain Maislin.

I am a 29 1/2 year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department. During those years I have worked many divisions and assignments. I've been in Juvenile Division over 20 years, so I feel I am qualified to speak about Juvenile Division.

Juvenile Division is made up of four sections: Child Abuse, Narcotics, Administration and Operations. The individuals who comprise Juvenile Division have many different interests and experiences. Generally, Child Abuse employees have different social circles than Narcotics Section; and Operations have different social circles than the Administration Section etc., etc. Juvenile Division has employees who are 30 years plus veterans. We also have probationary officers. Juvenile Division has employees assigned in Compton, Sylmar, Santa Monica, Parker Center, and employees in each of the four geographic bureaus... a very diverse and spread out division to say the least.

In my over 20 years experience in Juvenile Division it has always been difficult to get these employees together for a Christmas (Holiday) party. That is not a morale problem. It is a diverse division with people who like to do their own thing, and that's not a bad thing. There is no hostile work environment in Juvenile Division. It has a lot of loyal, dedicated, hard working sworn and civilian employees that have different interests.

Of course there are injustices in an imperfect world. Of course we have a few disgruntled employees in Juvenile Division, but thanks to Captain Maislin not as many as we had.

I would like to quote Elbert Hubbard, "If you work for a man, in heaven's name work for him. If he pays you wages, which supply your bread and butter, speak well of him, stand by him and the institution he represents. If put to a pinch, an ounce of loyalty is worth a pound of cleverness. If you must vilify, condemn and eternally disparage - resign your position, and when you are outside, damn to your heart's content. But, as long as you are part of the institution, do not condemn it. If you do that you are loosening the tendrils that are holding you to the institution, and by the first high wind that comes along,

you will be uprooted and blown away and probably will never know the reasons why."

A proud member of Juvenile Division,
Ev Berry #14357

Dear Editor:

The Risk Management Unit, Legal Affairs Section, presented the third Professional Resource for Officer Assistance in Civil Trial (PROACT) workshop on February 27, 1998, at the Arco Junior Achievement Center in Hollywood Hills. The workshop included presentations by subject matter experts in the fields of psychological counseling, employee assistance programs, financial planning, and civil litigation. The workshop also featured a panel of sworn litigation survivors who have been sued and volunteered to share their experiences and insight. Chief Parks addressed the attendees, offering remarks that demonstrated his commitment to the issue of successfully defending our officers who are faced with the ominous challenge of entering into a civil trial.

The financial support of the Los Angeles Police Protective League was instrumental in the overall success of the PROACT workshop by providing a hospitality table featuring hot and cold beverages, and food throughout the day. Your contribution reinforced one of the key objectives of the workshop by helping to create a comfortable, stress free, learning environment for the officers and their guests. Many of the attending officers remarked that this event was unlike any other Department training, due in part to the quality of the facilities and the abundance of complimentary refreshments.

The success of this event demonstrated the commitment to the well being of the men and women of the Los Angeles Police Department by both the Los Angeles Police Protective League and the Department. On behalf of the Los Angeles Police Department, I would like to thank the League for its contribution to the PROACT workshop and look forward to its continued support of this critical program.

Very truly yours,
Robert S. Gil, Deputy Chief
Commanding Officer
Human Resources Bureau

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Bob and Marissa Long, December 1996

another in a time of crisis. Wilshire officers came to the aid of Officer **Bob Long**'s niece Marissa. Marissa, who is only four years old, had just undergone major open heart surgery and was in need of A-positive blood. Bob explained that Marissa was born with only three chambers in her heart and if that wasn't bad enough, her heart was twisted backwards, which placed it on her right side. Surgeons at UCLA attempted to correct this by simulating an exterior fourth chamber. Marissa was in ICU and in need of blood. Dets. **Christie Holroyd** and **Dave Reeser**, along with Officers **Andrea Lucie**, and I went to UCLA to give blood. Officer **Paul Inabu**, however, gave platelets, which was a two-hour procedure. SLO **Michael Donatoni** was also supposed to give blood too, but we think he ended up at USC instead of UCLA. Marissa

dering around the station. It seemed that the dog wanted to make a "missing owner's" report. The dog looked like it had been on the streets for awhile; its hair was wet and matted. Mid-day and PM watch officers banded together and collected money to get the dog groomed. Officers figured they might have better luck finding the dog a home if it looked better. They put in a call to "Frank's Mobile Groomer" and Frank himself responded to the station with clips and shears in hand. Frank told Esquivel that the dog was actually a French poodle. Frank took the dog and transformed her from a scrounge mutt to "Frenchie" the poodle. Frenchie looked so good that officers were able to find



Officer Laurine Arellano and Frenchie.

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DIVISIONAL REPORTER



The Divisional Reporter is a regular feature of *The Thin Blue Line*. Divisional Reporters are encouraged to submit articles for publication. Deadline information can be found under 'Editorial Policies' on Page 2 of this issue.

We D.A.R.E. You! To Make a Difference

by Caesar Gonzalez
D.A.R.E Division

DARE Hawaii

It's a tough job, but somebody has to do it! Recently, the Western Regional Training Cadre traveled to the island of Oahu to conduct a Mentor Officer Training and a Junior High School training for the officers of Hawaii. Sgt. Alan Green and Offi-

cers John Deeney, Greg White, Rich Vargas, Mercy Crenshaw and Josuel Gooden trained officers from six counties and five islands.

Sgt. Green advised that Hawaii DARE officers have been dedicated to replicating the DARE program in their state for many years. They have a tremendous support base from their local communities and a



LAPD Officers Mercy Crenshaw, Greg White, Sgt. Al Green, John Deeney, Josuel "I love UCLA" Gooden, and Rich Vargas show their Hawaiian spirit.

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You can now get the information you need to make sure you're in top physical condition and not worry about the cost. This year there's a new and valuable benefit to Los Angeles Police Retirement Association (LAPRA) active members who have chosen Blue Cross of California Prudent Buyer (PPB) as their health plan. If you're among that group, you're entitled to an annual comprehensive health and fitness evaluation at Centinela Hospital's Fitness Institute. Valued at \$950, this benefit is provided with no out-of-pocket cost to you.

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This examination is available at no cost to active LAPRA members only. Although this benefit is not provided for spouses, Centinela Hospital's Fitness Institute offers this comprehensive evaluation to LAPRA spouses for \$525, a 45% discount from our standard rates.

parent following that is second to none.

The LAPD team worked extremely well with the local officers and had the opportunity to visit a local school that was culminating their DARE students. Many of the teachers and staff of the elementary school approached our officers and indicated how grateful they were to the LAPD for starting such a wonderful program and bringing it to the islands. "Mahalo" to our friends in the great state of Hawaii.

DARE PIII Promotions

Who said you can't promote in DARE Division? In an increasing trend to promote officers, DARE recently promoted the following four outstanding officers to the rank of police officer III: Craig Rawls, Loretta Smith, Lonnie Shiffer, and Cindy Furst. Congratulations guys!

Welcome

Joining the DARE family as a PIII is Officer Lorena Walsh from Training Division, Officer Mary Gomez from Personnel, and Alex Medel from Van Nuys Patrol. Not to be left out, we have the dynamic duo consisting of Officers Rich Wall and Oscar "Elvis" Villanueva from Wilshire Division. Get ready for the time of our career!

Farewells

Big DARE goodbyes go out to Michelle Schmidt, who promoted to PIII at Foothill Division; Rita Vallejo, who will be the new Northeast CRO Officer; and Senior Clerk Typist Kim McVicker (Not Mericker), who transferred to Van Nuys. Officer Michelle Rivera is retiring from LAPD for home life. Good luck and thanks for all your hard work.

DARE News

Congratulations goes out to Officer Ruben Holguin and his new bride Denise. Ruben also

has the added pleasure of seeing his son, Recruit Officer Eric Holguin go through our fine LAPD academy (see picture).



Proud father, D.A.R.E. officer Ruben Holguin with his son, recruit officer Eric Holguin at the Westchester Academy.

Not to be outdone by Holguin, Sgt. II Jack Dillard married Officer Lydia Macias from VTD. That's what you call an LAPD family!

Officer Shannon Allen gave birth to Bridger Allan on January 20, 1998. He measured 9 inches and weighed in at 8 lbs. 6 ozs.

Wanted: A Few Good Officers

DARE is seeking enthusiastic PII and PIII officers who are interested in the rewarding and challenging work of teaching our kids to stay away from drugs and violence. Add a specialty to your package and INCREASE YOUR CHANCES TO PROMOTE! For further info, contact Sgt. Miller at 213-485-4856.

League Delegates

D.A.R.E.'s Delegates are Ron Glover and Mark Horton. D.A.R.E. has one non-League member.

*

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Out of the Great SOUTHWEST

by Jeff Siggers
Southwest Patrol Division

The Slimy Sportsters

You know, many officers like to use organized sports to stay in shape and we have teams for the most popular of them. Some officers like the far edge sports like rock climbing and bungee jumping. But what about a couple of officers who like to MUD WRESTLE for an avocation? Mid-PM Watch Officers **Juan Gomez** and **James Lopez** were on patrol in the area of the L.A. Coliseum one night recently, just after the recent rains we had, when a BFMV Suspect There Now came out of the victim's car. Naturally, he began to run and jump over fences while shedding his jacket, and then his shirt. Since their chosen sport requires exceptional stamina and speed, Gomez and Lopez quickly caught our sorry suspect in a vacant lot filled with deep, slimy mud. There the games began according to Roman/Greco (and Department) rules. From a standing start, they were soon down and rolling around, trying for the advantage. At first, the suspect made good use of his bare skin tactic of being too slippery to hold. But Gomez and Lopez eventually got the upper hand as other officers arrived to cheer them on. They quickly pinned the suspect and cuffed him and it was another impressive win for the Slimy Sportsters of Southwest. Of course, our intrepid officers were COVERED with mud, but you could still tell they were flushed with excitement. As they got into their car for the trip to the station, Lopez was

overheard telling Gomez, "Hey, a couple more exhibition matches like this one, and we're ready for the Pros!" Well, I don't know. Mud wrestling might catch on like the World Wrestling Federation and some day we may see these two on TV. It could happen!

The Dust Biter

Shawn Porter, another one of the hard-charging Mid-PM Watch crew, has decided to take the big step with his lovely fiancée, Marianne, on March 22nd. Never at a loss for reasons to party, the watch turned out recently for a bachelor party in Shawn's honor (date and location purposely omitted for legal reasons). According to Sgt. **Bob Alaniz**, everyone had a great time giving Shawn a great send off as he retired his jersey as a party animal and joined the ranks of the newlyweds. Honorable mention should go to Officer **Mercedes Peña**, who proved herself an expert on the subject of shooters...

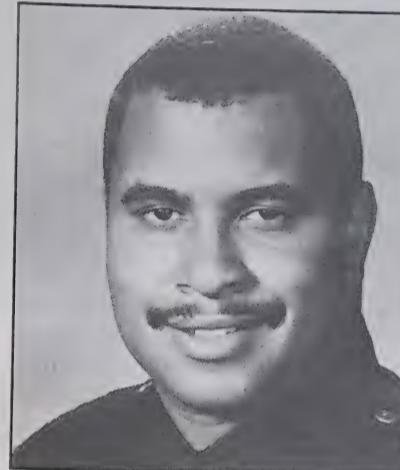
Sad News

Last month we reported that Sgt. **Lyle Young** was hit by a speeding car while on an investigation on Adams Boulevard. He is recovering at home, but it will still be out for a while. We are now sorry to report that Officer **Chris Gomez** was involved in a very serious traffic collision on February 9th. Chris is one of our "rising star" probationers who is very quick and friendly. He finished his Phase II early and was given the rare chance to work Southwest CRASH for his last few months here. Chris was in Norwalk on his Honda XBR motorcycle when he was hit by a

left turner. His left leg was broken in three places and he almost lost his left foot. He also sustained serious damage to the ligaments and skin on his right leg, and other more minor injuries. He has begun a series of surgeries to repair the damage and will be in recovery for a long time. We wish Chris well and hope for his speedy recovery from his injuries. We need his energy and warmth back here at Southwest. If you would like to contact Chris, call Southwest station for an update on his location and phone number. He would like to hear from you.

Southwest SLO Hears the Call

On a happy note, we would like to congratulate one of our best known and best loved Senior Lead Officers, **Todd Clease**, who has quit the Department and is off to greener pastures. Todd came to the LAPD in the 12/84 class and got to Southwest in late 1986. He has been here



Senior Lead Officer Todd Clease, gone to greener pastures.

ever since and has worked just about every assignment available to a police

officer in this Area. In addition to patrol, he worked the foot beats, SPU, and the Gang Task Force, before making P-3. Then he worked an extended vice tour before he made P3+1 four years ago and took over responsibility for 3A73, the Leimert Park Area.

Todd has been very active in his church, the Crenshaw Christian Center, which is perhaps the largest church in Los Angeles, and often hosts VIPs in the business, political and religious communities from all over the world. Todd has worked off-duty at the Center for years as a security consultant specializing in dignitary protection. Recently, the Pastor of his church offered Todd a position as a full time Dignitary Protection Agent. There is also a possibility that Todd may eventually be able to move into the ministry, which has been a long-standing dream of his. We wish Officer Clease well in his quest to live his dreams while taking on an outstanding opportunity to contribute to a worthy cause. However, he also knows that he is always welcome right back here at the Great Southwest if he changes his mind.

More Happy Beginnings

We would also like to congratulate Senior Lead Officer **Mike Cryer** and his wife on the birth of their son, Michael Anthony Cryer II. This young addition to this fine police family was born on March 2nd, at 1837 hours, weighing in at 5 pounds, 10 ounces. He is very healthy and strong, especially his lungs, so he is really living up to the family name. Mike is back at work and is beaming with pride – as well he should. Congrats, Mike and Carla!

League Delegates

Southwest delegates include **Fred Arroyo**, **John Elder**, **Charles Halliburton** and **Dino Rubi**. Southwest has eleven non-League members.

*



March 4th---The transfer just arrives. Wilshire loses another good detective.

George Dabdoub, Laurel Friedlander, Stephen Musso, Bruce O'Bryant, Michael Oshea, Kurt Wong, David Purcell, Nicole Wasson, Cathy Lopez and Ramon Barajas.

A big zájáin to Dets. Jim Parr, Jesse Lopez, Sgt. Frank Hurtado, Officers Janet McKinney, Jay Glenn, Calvin Dehesa, Belinda Townsend, Matthew Stewart, Mario Mota, Ken Schmidt and Darryl Moore.

The answer to last month's question about which two SLOs were getting married this year were long time bachelors **Michael Donatoni** and **Perry Jones**. I'm sure that **Jeff Wenninger** is breathing a sigh of relief since he transferred out of the trailer, because you know that things happen in threes. Who will be next? **Corrina Draper** or **Lamar Bell**?

League Delegates

Wilshire's delegates include **Corrina Draper**, **Gary Fredo**, **Bill Yarbrough**, and **Al Ruvalcaba**. Wilshire has seven non-members.

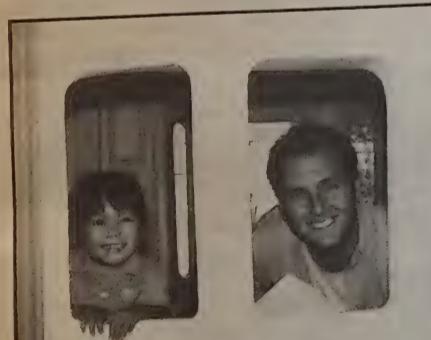
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More Divisional Reporter on next page

What About Wilshire?

by Victoria Kirkham
Wilshire Division

The rumors of low morale due to the loss of the 3/12, the creation of the 1.28, and an increased workload with no overtime availability may be true, but officers have always taken care of one



Bob and Marissa Long, December 1996

another in a time of crisis. Wilshire officers came to the aid of Officer **Bob Long's** niece Marissa. Marissa, who is only four years old, had just undergone major open heart surgery and was in need of A-positive blood. Bob explained that Marissa was born with only three chambers in her heart and if that wasn't bad enough, her heart was twisted backwards, which placed it on her right side. Surgeons at UCLA attempted to correct this by simulating an exterior fourth chamber. Marissa was in ICU and in need of blood. Dets. **Christie Holroyd** and **Dave Reeser**, along with Officers **Andrea Lucie**, and I went to UCLA to give blood. Officer **Paul Inabu**, however, gave platelets, which was a two-hour procedure. SLO **Michael Donatoni** was also supposed to give blood too, but we think he ended up at USC instead of UCLA. Marissa



Ofc. Laurine Arellano and Frenchie.

dering around the station. It seemed that the dog wanted to make a "missing owner's" report. The dog looked like it had been on the streets for awhile; its hair was wet and matted. Mid-day and PM watch officers banded together and collected money to get the dog groomed. Officers figured they might have better luck finding the dog a home if it looked better. They put in a call to "Frank's Mobile Groomer" and Frank himself responded to the station with clips and shears in hand. Frank told Esquivel that the dog was actually a French poodle. Frank took the dog and transformed her from a scrounge mutt to "Frenchie" the poodle. Frenchie looked so good that officers were able to find



Jeff Wenninger's response to go to Metro. "Ah SWAT is just a heartbeat away."

gratulations to Officer **Tim Kim**, who will be sewing a star on his uniform as Wilshire's newest SLO. Oh Tim, you better get a pair of running shoes too and get ready for FASTRAC.

Roll out the red carpet for Detectives **Debbie Potter**, **Ruben Whittington**, Sgts. **Diane Anderson**, **Michelle Thomas**, Officers **Juan Franco**, **Diane Ponce**, **Mike Pedroza**, **Craig Dean**, **Daryl Edwards**, **Leo Hernandez**, **Miguel Ortega**,

DIVISIONAL REPORTER



The Bird's Eye View

by Larry Chamberlain
& Dan Johnson
Air Support Division

It's that time again, Spring Break. Time to dust off the toys and get ready for good times.

The Happening...

Glen Marczinko (TFO Extraordinaire) has left us. He transferred to Southeast Division. He now is an FTO back in the area he likes so much. Good luck to you Glen, we'll miss you.

Kris Owen, Tactical Flight Officer (TFO) has transferred in from West Valley Division. Congratulations Kris, we're glad to have you.

For Your Info

Tactical Flight Officer Orals were conducted last month. There were approximately 48 applicants interviewing for upcoming loans and

then permanent openings. Good luck to all who applied.

June 13 is the day of our Annual Picnic. ASD invites you to attend and join in on the fun. In addition to all the great food and activities, this year we will have a Car & Motorcycle Show. Anyone interested in more information, please contact **Sgt. Thatcher** at (213) 485-2600.

Tactical Flight Officers at Air Support Division are required to complete an activities log similar to your Daily Field Activities Report (DFAR). In the past we were required to obtain names and booking number of those arrested. This is no longer required. We need only the last name, first name and offense involved. This will really cut down on follow-up phone calls. To expedite this process we will request information via the radio on simplex base or on a tactical frequency. When we request it, simply ask the arrested person his/her name, and

tell us the offense involved. That will do it! Thanks!

Tours Available

Area Commanding Officers, Senior Lead Officers, and Community Liaison Officers have expressed interest in demonstrating Department resources and capabilities to the community. We want to support your efforts. We are offering tours of Air Support Division facilities and aircraft. In addition to adult members of the community, we encourage school field trips and youth group visits to the facility. The tour takes about 90 minutes starting with an introduction and safety briefing. Guests are escorted to the control tower and observation deck to watch regularly scheduled aircraft take-off and landings. The tour will commence with a view of the aircraft and flight deck. Cameras are welcome and photo opportunities will be available.

Safety for our visitors is our primary concern. The flight deck can be hazardous without proper guidance and management. We have

prepared a thorough list of guidelines to assist you in evaluating tour group suitability. Please contact Officer Daniel L. Johnson, Air Support Division Community Liaison Officer, or the ASD Watch Commander at (213) 485-2600 for assistance in planning a tour.

In Memory of...

Dave Allen Knott
10/6/59 to 3/5/98

Dave passed away on March 5, 1998 after a long battle with brain cancer. Dave is survived by his daughters Amber Marie and Kimberly Lynn. Dave's services were held March 9, 1998 at Calvary Chapel Golden Springs in Diamond Bar. His interment was at Forest Lawn in Covina. Dave will surely be missed by all, especially those of us at Air Support Division.

Be safe, go home intact, and always watch your 6 o'clock.

League Delegates

ASD's delegate is **Bill Anderson**. ASD has ten non-League members.

*

Narcotics Group

by Trinka Porrata
Narcotics Division

NET Disbanded

Unfortunately our Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET) is a piece of history, shut down early 1998 after nearly two years of bringing joy to the Rampart Area. Utilizing Narcotics Division supervisors, a mobile substation and uniformed Phase III Probationers to give high visibility enforcement to a different, tightly confined area with drug problems each day, NET was probably one of the most popular street level enforcement projects ND has ever done. NET moved around Rampart Area giving drug-plagued neighborhoods at least an occasional day with reduced drug flow so that citizens felt comfortable going shopping and walking around the area. Many a mother stopped to tie a kid's shoelaces on the benches of "Big Blue." It also provided a little insight on narcotics enforcement to our young officers. And, the NET "kids" provided a tremendous amount of information on individuals and especially gang members

for CRASH detectives. Det. III **George Lusby** and Dets. II **Patti May** and **Billy McGee** did a great job of getting the NET concept off the ground two years ago. Det. III **Rick DeMartino**, Det. II **Wally Hull** and Sgt. **Leo Kerchenske** did a great job to the end. Thanks too are due the motor officers, Ramp SLOs, citizens and others who contributed to NET's success. I too spent some time in Big Blue supervising the "wild crews" and truly enjoyed it. I'm quick to express concern about the changes in whom we are hiring these days and am deeply concerned that this isn't a career but just another job to a lot of new officers today. I have to tell you, working NET was a valuable experience, the exposure to some really dedicated, intense new cops was great.

Comings and Goings

With NET closing doors, Det. II **Patti May** left ND for DHD. Det. II **Wally Hull** is on loan to OHD, and Det. III **Rick DeMartino** is now in the Narcotics Information Network. Sgt. **Kerchenske** returned to

Rampart. The last couple of transfers have also taken **Sandra Infante**, **Apolonio Ruiz**, **Roberto Morales**, **Victor Pallares**, **Ed Maciel**, **Brent Smith**, **Dean Gizzi**, **Mike Pedroza**, **Chris Ramirez** and **CT Helen Rolison**. **MA Andrea Beasley** up and retired on us. Good luck to all of them.

During that time, we have acquired Det. **Andrew Smith**, Officer **Rosalinda Medina**, Officer **Arnulfo Valdez**, Sgt. **Kevin McClure**, Det. **Venus Mason**, Det. **Jeff Nolte** (a tread), Det. **Amalia Sanchez**, Officer **Anita Moreno**, Officer **Carlos Sanchez**, Officer **Kenneth Schmidt**, Det. **Michael Sullivan**, Det. **Theodore Williams**, Officer **Tyrone Miles**, Officer **Victoria Lim**, Officer **Mario Mota** and **MA John Kerrigan**. Welcome to each.

Alert to New Detectives

ND has several Detective I vacancies. Existing Detective I's with 12 months geographic division detective experience, or any detective candidate in Band 14 or 15, who might be interested in a narcotics assignment, should contact **Sgt. Bob Clark** at 213-485-4044. If you have not worked or been loaned to narco, you don't know what you are missing. I've been here several years and love it. Just wish I had made the move even sooner. FES is community policing at its finest.

Mule Train has a Big Day

We in downtown narco don't hear a lot from our Valley boys, but Mule Train recently had a case to talk about. On February 24, Case Agents Detectives **Stravropoulos** and **Selleh** led the crew on a case that resulted in seizure of \$414,634, more than three kilos of cocaine, marijuana, six handguns, one rifle and records indicating a long history of drug sales. Most of the drugs came from the attic of the suspect's home and most of the money from a secret compartment

under a kitchen cabinet. Other money came from his financial investments. Heads up -- when first stopped by the ND crew, the suspect had a 9mm in the center console of his Ford Explorer and bragged that he had a concealed weapons permit. Indeed he did have a permit. This guy is a shooting instructor and hangs with a lot of cops from various agencies. It's so hard to know who to trust in any aspect of life these days.

Police This!

Our Clerk Typist in ND's Staff Services Unit, Timekeeping Section, just can't get enough of this police business. On February 25, **Ganise Lewis** tied the knot in Las Vegas and became Ganise Police, like really! Lucky man machinist Billy Police has spent a lifetime enduring jokes about his name, and now she gets to share the load. They had such a good time that they did it twice, to be sure they got it right. Well, her folks got stuck in traffic and her brother had to do the honors of giving her away, but the show had to go on. When her folks arrived and mom just couldn't believe she missed it, they simply did it all over again -- 20 minutes after the first I do. That just may be a record for renewing vows.

Tough Love Baby

ND's Filing Team Clerk typist **Michelle Clinton** had to work hard for this baby. On February 25, mom spent 16 hours in labor before Hailey Michelle arrived at 6 pounds, 8 ounces.

League Delegates

NARCO Group's delegates include **Bob Baker**, **Shelby Braverman**, **Carl Buettner**, **Glen Dunagan**, **Dick Elliot**, **Ed Gutierrez**, and **Gerardo Lopez**. NARCO Group has four non-members.

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On The Eastern Horizon

by S.L.O. Ruben
"FTD" Rodriguez
Hollenbeck Division

Happy Baker to Vegas month, everyone. Good luck to all Hollenbeck runners and their support personnel, in their quest for the ever-elusive mug at the annual Challenge Cup Relay.

Gajda Fund-Raiser

Once again, the Hollenbeck community came together for a good cause. This time in order to raise funds to benefit **Steve Gajda**'s children. On March 5th, a barbecue fund-raiser was held at Bob's Sportsmen's Hideout, in Lincoln



Steven's mother & grandmother enjoying the festivities in Steve's honor.

Heights. Numerous local area businesses donated food, door prizes and related items. The event, attended by Steve's mother, grandmother and two brothers raised several thousand dollars, which were given to Steve's mom and distributed to his children. Steve's mother, Mrs. Christine Hester, was very thankful and expressed such sentiment while addressing the crowd with very moving words. Mrs. Hester wanted me to share the following with you: On September 28, 1998, Steve's grandfather passed away and, during the funeral service, Steve read a poem,

which he himself wrote. The poem, addressed to his grandfather, read in part: "Every night, I look up at the stars and try to figure out which one you are. I imagine how happy your life will be now and in a world without pain, suffering or grief. Although it hurts we know that we must go on, we must continue to enjoy life until the Father calls us home." Steve's grandmother, Mrs. Audrey Kranig was also very moved by the event and wanted me to thank everyone involved. A special thanks to **Robert Lopez**, proprietor of the establishment and to all his employees, who donated their time and worked extremely hard putting the event together, **Kathy, Dawn, Ray and Blanca**.

Update

In an earlier issue, I reported that former Hollenbeck Officer **Dave Knott**, was fighting the battle of his life, after being diagnosed with brain cancer. I am now very saddened to report that Dave has passed away. Dave died on March 5th, finally ending his long-time suffering. I ask that you say a prayer for Dave and his family.

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Senior Orderly **Angie Caldera** on the death of her brother. Fidel Gomez passed away Tuesday, February 26, 1998 in Nayarit, Mexico. Angie, you are loved by the Hollenbeck family and we are here for you in your time of need.

Hollenbeck Alumni

Conrad "Cota Bear" Cota wanted me to let you guys know he has been doing well since leaving LAPD and joining the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department. Conrad is enjoying the slower-paced lifestyle in the company of his family and has even found time to re-



Conrad Cota

turn to school. Conrad says hello to all his friends and past acquaintances. Conrad, glad you and your family are doing well and we wish you good luck in the future.

Stork Announcement

Congratulations to Officer **Peter McDonald** on the birth of his child, Ian Craig. Little Ian was born on March 5, 1998 and weighed in at a very healthy 9 lbs., while measuring a whopping 23-1/2 inches in length. Peter, mother Norma and baby Ian are all doing well. Congratulations on your family addition and look forward to many sleepless nights.

Congratulations

We salute and congratulate **Ron Chavarria** on his promotion to P-3 in the CRASH unit.

Welcome

We extend a welcome hand to the following personnel, lucky enough to now be assigned to Hollenbeck: Det. **Larry Martinez** returns to

Hollenbeck after a stint at BFD. P-2s **R. Casey** and **C. Humphris**, in from Central Division. P-2 **F. Gonzalez**, in from Southwest and P-2 **M. Stewart**, in from Wilshire. I also extend a delayed welcome to Det. **Emma Ramirez**, who has been on loan to patrol from RHD for the past few months. Emma, sorry for the oversight.

So Long

Congratulations to Lt. **Gus Martinez** on his promotion to Lt. 2, at Internal Affairs Group. Congratulations also go out to **Maria Martinez** who promotes to Detective and moves on to Juvenile Division. Also leaving Hollenbeck is Detective **Yolanda Bybee**, who is now assigned to DSD. P-2s **A. Acosta** and **S. Walsh** are now patrolling the streets of Hollywood. P-2 **R. Rodriguez** is now at Southeast Division. Bike Officer **David Purcell** and **Nicole Wasson** are now at Wilshire Division. Dave, thanks for all your hard work and dedication while assigned to the Bike Detail. Finally, P-2 **L. Stevenson** is now at West L.A.

Que Paso

This month's salute goes out to my good buddy **Jaime "Toucan Sam" Anchondo**.

League Delegates

Hollenbeck delegates include **Carlos Elizondo**, **Kemp Fairbanks**, **Rob Holroyd**, **Ray Madrid** and **Alex Ortiz**. Hollenbeck has two non-members.

*

More Divisional Reporter on next page

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DIVISIONAL REPORTER



Pacific Breeze

by Cheri Roberts
Pacific Division

The Clifford Cup

Pacific Area Vice personnel got together for a promotional party for **J. D. Clifford**, and a great time was had by all. J.D. recently made sergeant, and as custom has it, he was given the traditional vice cup on his way out the door. He will be missed here on the streets of Pacific, but we're sure he'll find his way back someday! Good luck J.D.

The Clever "CAD" Crew

There are some people out there (even officers) who don't know what



Karen Jones of CAD says, "You want what? When?"

"CAD" stands for, or even what it means. CAD stands for "Crime Analysis Detail." What this crew does is go through all the crime reports taken in the division, and divide them up by reporting district and type of



Ron Stewart says, "How many times do I have to tell you not to bother me when the headphones are on!?"



Pacific Area Vice Lt. to Rt.: S. Stein, M. Picardi, K. Clark, J. Penna, J. Eldridge, P. Stone & J.D. Clifford

Hollywood Happenings

by Jennifer O'Brien
Hollywood Division

St. Valentine's Day came and went this month. I hope that everyone enjoyed a special time with their special someone.

Seatbelts, Everyone!

Whew, glad that **Margarita Sanders** and **Frank Flores** are all right! While en route to a back-up call recently, they were unfortunately involved in a major traffic collision. Officers Sanders and Flores, assigned to the Day Watch Juvenile Car, were traveling through a green light and were T-boned by another vehicle which ran a red light. Margarita was bumped and bruised, but returned to duty quickly. Frank received facial lacerations and an eye injury from which he is still recovering. We all sincerely hope that both of you recover quickly and most importantly, completely! For any of us that viewed the remains of Margarita and Frank's black and white, the importance of safe, defensive driving and those doggone seatbelts made a powerful statement! Be safe out there, everyone! Remember the most important thing: We all go home, every night!

Detectives of the Month

The Breakfast Bandits: Det. **Ray Conboy** is currently working hard on the case of the "Breakfast Ban-

dits." These are two guys who befriend gay men, drug their food, and rob their homes of valuables. They have victimized at least two men here in Hollywood, one in West Hollywood, and one in San Diego. Through very thorough investigative techniques, and a great ability to work with outside agencies, Det. Conboy was able to positively I.D. the suspects through fingerprints. These two suspects have devastated the lives of their victims by preying upon kindly, trusting men. The victims are lucky to have escaped with their lives, as they were administered unknown quantities of unknown drugs in food and drinks. All known victims have positively identified the suspects out of six pack line-ups. While the suspects are still outstanding, Det. Conboy has solved yet another high-profile case involving very dangerous criminals.

Det. Conboy and Det. **Dan Enriquez** worked together on a recent kidnap case. A female Japanese tourist was involved in a minor traffic collision. Upon exiting her vehicle, she was approached by the suspect, the driver of the other vehicle, and asked if she needed any help. The victim got into the vehicle and the suspect drove away with her. The suspect demanded money from the victim to pay for the vehicle damage, which was obtained from an ATM in Hollenbeck. The

crime. They then make pin maps of the crimes, allowing detectives and officers to see exactly where the crime patterns appear, and what the crime trends are. They conduct crime control meetings for the division, as well as making presentations for bureau. Their job is very demanding, and requires many hours of intense analyzing, and computer work (not to mention the added burden of learning F.A.S.T.R.A.C.). Our "CAD" crew is one of the hardest working crews I've ever seen. (**Karen Jones**, **Stephanie Johnigan**, and **Deanna Benedict**) Not only do they work hard, but they have the ability to

suspect finally released the victim hours later. She was forced to give the suspect her phone number so that he could reach her again if additional money was needed. The victim contacted Ray and Dan who then set up a phone tap on the victim's phone. The suspect then called, requesting a meet for additional funds, and was taken into custody at the meet location. The suspect was still in possession of the note the victim had written for him with her name and phone number information. Job well done!

Det. Enriquez also spearheaded the recently solved "Security Guard Bank Robberies." Det. Dan noticed a common M.O. in the numerous robberies, including the use of stolen vans, a stainless steel 9 mm handgun, and security guard uniforms. He prepared a flyer which was sent out to neighboring divisions, and Wilshire detectives confirmed the pattern. Rampart S.P.U. eventually detained some suspects for a simulated gun and were able to bring the investigation full circle. The investigation of the simulated gun suspects led to one of the stolen vans and other suspects. So far, the suspects involved have admitted to 23 robberies. Just goes to show you how powerful an unusual M.O. can be! Great work, Dan!

Whoops!

Apparently, I forgot to acknowledge **Mike Lopez'** promotion to P-3. Congratulations to my old bike partner and watch out illegal vendors, here comes Señor Lopez!

laugh and enjoy their work, while getting their work done. They should be commended for their dedication to this job, and their ability to work under pressure.

Movin' Out

We would like to wish the following people the best of luck as they leave us for different endeavors: Sgt. Rick Wall is headed for ERS, Sgt. Hamilton is going to SE, Sgt. Thomas is off to WIL, Sgt. Stambaugh is going to Metro, Officer Meagher (pronounced Ma-har) is headed to RAMP, Officer Miles is off to ND, and Hazel Haggins is leaving us for HWD. We'd also like to send out congrats to the following probationers who finally made P-2 DOG: Vicki Nguyen who's off to RAMP, Officer Dearmon who's headed for NHWD, Officer Maggiano who is going to STD, and Officer Mendoza who is off to VNYS. Best wishes to all.

Movin' In

We would like to welcome the following people to Pacific Area: Sgt. Cushnie over from WLA, Sgt. Binder in from JD-VAL, Officer Ornelas over from HARB, Officers T. Dobine, Roberson and Wills all in from 77th, Officer Ferreria over from FTHL, and Officer Negrete is from SW.

League Delegates

Pacific Division delegates include **Dale Best**, **Ron McNally**, **Dennis Moeller** and **John Pasquariello**. Pacific has eight non-members.

Hollywood Ins, Outs, and Ups

Congratulations to: **W. Sera** (P-3 CED) and our newest FTO **F. Tamez** (P-3 HWD).

Farewell to: **P. Arrue** (FTHL), **Bert** (FTHL), **D. Demarco** (HARB), **F. Martinez** (NE), **A. Otero** (NE), **J. Stanley** (NE), **C. Zavala** (NHWD), **S. Voeltz** (RAMP), **K. Stoecklein** (SE), **D. Wyma** (VNY), and Civilian **R. Valadez** (RAMP). Congratulations to our newest Metro men...**Dave Legaspi** and **John Buckley**, partners in crime 'til the end! May the force be with you, guys!

Welcome to Sin City to: **V. McDowell** (DSD), **D. Gizzi** (ND), **M. Dimit** (77th), **S. Showler** (RAMP), **W. Haas** (FTHL), **S. Hall** (HOBK), **M. McLeod** (HOBK), **J. Reyna** (NE), **A. Bozzi** (NHWD), **G. Meyer** (NHWD), **J. Zboravan** (NHWD), **M. Snowden** (RAMP), **J. Linder** (SW), and our new probationers from Training Division: **E. Collado**, **R. Flores**, **T. Rodgers**, and **C. Rowland**. Welcome home!

Hope everyone has a party worthy of St. Patrick this month! Be safe and responsible and have fun!

Go Bruins! Watch out for flying lead...and as always, *Cead Meas Failte* (speaking of which, someone in Hollywood actually knows what that means...I'll let the rest of you keep guessing. Hint, it's Gaelic!).

League Delegates

Hollywood delegates include **Dennis Fanning**, **Vic Lucchesi**, **Jim Mateer**, **Pat Terry** and **Fred Tredy**. Hollywood Division has one non-League member.

The All American Division

by Maria Marquez
77th Street Division

The other day an arrestee told me that the front of our new station looked like the "Star Ship Enterprise." Even though I remember the show "Star Trek" very well, I was still having a hard time understanding why he thought that. I suppose it is our tall pillars with windows. Could he have thought it was the bridge? In any case, in keeping with the "keeping everyone happy" theory we now live by, I continued to make him happy by telling him that he would get to meet the first lieutenant, and maybe a captain or two. He opted to see the doctor in "sick bay" instead, and while being booked he asked: "Will I get to meet any aliens?" and I simply stated, "You just did; live long and prosper."

Yes, we still have fun here at 77th Street and lately we have been given that opportunity on a more frequent basis. Calls for service are down and the community continues to work on their quality of life issues independently. A lot of hard work went into this by the 77th Senior Lead Unit. There was no "Leave it to Beaver" or "Happy Days" theory in this task. It has taken years to get the community on board to what the department compassionately refers to as "community-based policing." As an organized community, that trusts its officers, there have been many outstanding arrests that have been made, repressible crime is down and our homicides are down 50%. In January there were a total of 92 guns seized!

My favorite gun story lately involves a shots fired investigation that officers **Matt Wharton** and **Roger Gaylord** conducted. The victim advised the officers that the suspect (husband) fired two shots at her outside of their residence after an argument. With the suspect in custody, the officers obtained permission to search the residence from the victim. With a "life on the

beat" attitude, the officers recovered the weapon from inside of the victim's TV. The weapon had two spent shells and two live rounds. The suspect was booked for Attempt 187 P.C.

During the hours of darkness when "Spiderman" moves along the streets, this super hero found some competition with our morning watch. During a BFMV radio call, the officers had just missed the suspect. In usual 77th Street fashion, responding units established an outstanding perimeter within minutes. The air unit and canine were not able to respond, and so the morning watch units conducted a foot search within the perimeter with negative results. The officers were convinced that the suspect was within their perimeter, and in an attempt to gain an overview of the area, Officer **Steven Zaby** took to climbing up a two-story building and scaled a billboard ladder where he observed the suspect trying to conceal himself on a roof. Code 4, in custody. "Perry Mason" take a seat, 77th Street officers are on scene.

"El niño, El niño." When **Maria Enriquez** was yelling this phrase, she was not talking about the



Baby Justin Cavillo with his "partners for life" officers Bryan Hand and Julian Rodriguez.

weather. Officer **Bryan Hand** and Officer **Julian Rodriguez** were flagged down on February 25, 1998 by a citizen who advised them that

a woman was giving birth in a vehicle. As the officers arrived at the vehicle, it was obvious that this "El niño" was going to arrive before any paramedics arrived on the scene. As Officer Rodriguez calmed the family, Officer Hand did his best to assist the mother. As the child stormed on in, Officer Hand observed that the baby was turning blue and was not breathing. Officer Hand checked the baby's neck and moved the umbilical cord, which was restricting the baby's airflow. Once this was done, baby Justin Cavillo gave his proper "hello" and cried all the way to Daniel Freeman Hospital. Mother and son are listed

where that got our lieutenant - back to Day Watch Patrol! Welcome back sir! It is best you get back to recruiting and training your divisional "Gladiators." We have a title to defend.

With competitors like Sergeant **Tere Akune** as a leader among the female officers here at 77th, chances



Sergeant Tere Akune 77th Street athlete of the month February 1998.



Sergeant John King with her highness "Kayley Rose".

in good condition. "Huggies" for everyone!

And speaking of babies...Sgt. **John King** and his wife Denise received the ultimate Valentine on February 14, 1998. Baby "Kaley Rose" took her formal place -- as heir to the throne in this King family. Congratulations!

January 16, 1998, 77th Detectives honored Lt. **Paul Von Lutzow** at a luncheon at the Great Western Forum club. Lt. Von Lutzow was assigned to Detectives for the past year as the assistant O.I.C. He was presented with a plaque thanking him for his service and support. He is known as "The coach," but not for his weight lifting training capabilities, but because of his knowledge of the USC football stats (Boy, that is a tough one to master). Recently, "the coach" has been attending the San Gabriel Valley Trojan Club meetings and battled the entire USC administration in support of former coach John Robinson. Well we all see where that got John, and we see even better

are we will be bringing home the title for the fifth time. Sgt. Tere Akune is our "Athlete of the Month" for February. Tere is a great motivator, as a competitor she is undefeated and is a department record holder in her age and weight group. Sgt. Akune can put in a ten-hour day and still work out to maintain her competitive shape and disciplined mind.

Over the past two years, Tere, as did many other 77th Street officers, had to work out in a musty old warehouse on St. Andrews. Even at the new 77th Street, the "weight room" is in name only and its equipment is sorely lacking. Yet this hasn't deterred her enthusiasm for the sport. In fact she continues to encourage others, especially women, to work out and get in shape. The men and women of 77th Street proudly present Tere Akune as the 77th Street Athlete of the Month. Congratulations Sarge!

Well, that is about it for this sitcom...take care and be sure to stay tuned.

League Delegates

77th Street Division League delegates include **Bill Driver**, **Lisa Golt**, **Teresa Golt**, **Ace Ventura**, **Paul Von Lutzow**, and **Russ Wong**. 77th Division has one non-member. *



Detective Steve Carey practicing for the 1998 Winter Olympics Luge Competition on his Game Boy Video Luge computer.



Photos by: Genevieve Velasquez

at night. Maybe not...just let me know so that I can include your noteworthy information in the next issue of *The Thin Blue Line*. Please feel free to stop by my desk and give me the scoop. I'm located in that remote corner of Juvenile Division known as the Operations Section.

League Delegates

Juvenile Division's delegates are **Raul Galindo**, **Howard Beardsley** and **David Bashara**. Juvenile Division has one non-League member. *

kiddy cop corner

by Virginia Emme
Juvenile Division

All right folks, this is my first attempt at writing for the *Blue Line*, so bear with me...

There are lots of congratulations in order for a lot of people. **Ernie Baker** hit a huge milestone and now has 25 years of distinguished service with LAPD as of 2/19/98. Wow, Ernie was a recruit when Smokey Robinson was hot, and the Beatles and Jackson 5 were still a band. Not that we're trying to make you feel old Ernie!

Howard "Woody" Beardsley and **Michelle Robinson** were recently promoted to Detective II. They're making those big bucks now, and I'm sure they're just dying to take everyone out to lunch!

Double congrats to **Rox** -- After four years of hard work at Juvenile Division she's leaving us for a pro-

motion to R&I Division. She's also expecting her first child on May 7th. Good luck with both of these big events, Rox, you'll be missed here at Juvenile Division. There are also two weddings in the works. We'd like to wish **Angela Stewart** and **Phyllis D'Elia** good luck, much love and lasting happiness on their respective nuptials.

The annual Southern California Juvenile Officers Association trip to Laughlin, Nevada took place from March 4-6, 1998. Some of the training issues discussed were user friendly slot machines, the legalities of counting cards during black jack, and where to find the best all-you-can-eat buffet. This is definitely training you may want to consider attending next year.

Hugo Cepeda recently graduated from the 106th class of the Delinquency Control Institute at USC. This is an outstanding six-

More Divisional Reporter on next page

DIVISIONAL REPORTER



The Lucky 13

by Gail Ryan
Newton Division

Congratulations to **Marci Zuniga**, of the Area's Captain's office. After 21 years of civilian service with the city, 16 of those years at Newton Division, Marci is quitting for a better paying job. Marci will be joining the LAPD as a recruit officer in the April Academy class. Nothing like taking a little time to make up your mind on a new career. Good luck Marci, Newton Division will miss you on their running team and in the captain's office.

Congratulations to Det. II **Michael Bauers** and P-3 **Janet Owens** on being named the Outstanding Detectives of the Fourth



Det. II Michael Bauers and P-3 Janet Owens
Newton Detectives of Fourth Quarter 1997

Quarter of 1997. Det. Bauers, a 17-year veteran, and Officer Owens, a 10-year veteran, have worked as partners in Robbery Investigations for the past year. They have established a reputation for being dedicated and tenacious investigators. In 1997, they were assigned 388 robbery investigations, of which they cleared 150 cases for a yearly clearance rate of 39%. Their clearance rate is unprecedented. OCB's clearance rate for the same period of time was 31%.

An example of Bauers and Owens' tireless efforts and superior investigative abilities were demonstrated in their investigation of a brutal business take-over robbery, committed by three armed suspects at a business located in the 4100 block of South Main Street. The suspects not only robbed the employees at the business, they placed their weapons in the victims' mouths and against their heads in an attempt to force the employees to open the safe. When that didn't work, the suspects beat the victims. The officers focused their investigation on a local terrorist street gang and due to the suspects' description and

method of operation. They were able to locate an informant who was able to supply the names of the suspects. Contacting other divisions and cities with the information they had, the two detectives were able to identify the suspects in several take-over business robberies citywide. Due to their efforts, seven street gang members were arrested for multiple robberies citywide. Congratulations to both Bauers and Owens.



Officer Carillo and new friend.

During the course of an officer's career, he/she sees many tragedies. Their job assignments force them to have short-term exposure to other people's unfortunate experiences.



Officer Clark sharing at Christmas time.

One common factor which affects all officers is the pain and suffering which a child will suffer either by accident or at the hands of another. One of the most trying times a child suffers is during the holiday season when they cannot be at home with their family. Newton Day Watch officers continue to give unselfishly of their time and donations, to help ease the hard time a child will experience spending Christmas in a hospital. Newton Day Watch officers raised \$670 and purchased enough toys for

two hospitals. On December 23, 1997, the officers formed in two squads and descended upon Orthopedic and California Hospitals. The officers walked the hallways and visited with the children while distributing toys. Not only did the children enjoy receiving the toys, but also they thrived to spend some time with the uniformed officers. Many of the children requested photos to remember the encounter. Congratulations to all Newton officers on your generosity.

On January 6, AM Watch Officers **M. Reyes** and **P. Galan** were off duty and on their way to a ski trip, driving north on Central Avenue en route to the freeway. The officers observed a Loco Park gang member who was wanted in a homicide that occurred on January 3rd in the 1100 block of East 27th Street. The suspect recognized the officers and fled to his mother's house. The officers, using outstanding tactics and ingenuity, maintained contact with the suspect. Officer Reyes, using his own personal cell phone, alerted Newton Division and directed responding units to establish a perimeter to contain the suspect. The officers were able to take the suspects into custody without incident, and Newton homicide detectives filed one count of murder.

Also, in January, Officers **J. Canales** and **M. Fletcher** responded to a

In another police caper involving canines, Officers **Vincent** and **Fletcher** received a radio call of a vicious animal in the area of 56th and San Pedro Streets on February 7th. The officers spotted the dog that had bitten a lady on the leg. A short foot/paw pursuit ensued and the four-legged suspect jumped a fence and obtained concealment under a parked car. Vincent and Fletcher secured the area with assistance of Officers **Payton** and **Garza**, and Animal Regulation was notified. As the officers made their approach, the four-legged suspect, who made his dash for freedom, spotted them. The four-legged suspect was able to out maneuver the two-legged officers and broke through their perimeter. The officers



The Newton Gang spreading Christmas cheer.

quickly broadcast the "paw/foot" pursuit and the direction of travel. Unable to keep up with the four-footed escapee, the officers elected to use their vehicles to pursue the suspect. Using leap-frogging techniques to head off the suspect and change his direction of travel numerous times, the officers finally outsmarted the canine to where he again tried to hide. A request of a beanbag deployment was made and Sgt. **Cheatham**, who was on the scene, denied the use. Finally, after a final dash, the four-legged suspect gave up without a yelp and was taken into custody by the Animal Control officer. The example of teamwork and physical fitness was witnessed by numerous citizens who were thankful of the capture of this dangerous and sometimes vicious suspect who was the terror of the neighborhood. Police work has gone to the dogs!

And, finally, Newton vice was the only OCB vice unit to make bookmaking arrest for the year with a total of six arrests, a 20% increase from 1996. These numbers placed Newton number two in the city, one arrest behind Hollywood vice who has 12 investigators compared to Newton's six. Although bookmaking investigations and arrests are down citywide, Newton continues to excel due in part to the extensive training that has been provided by AdVice Detectives. On one occasion a long time active bookmaker proved three hours of training specific to horse betting. This information proved invaluable and greatly assisted the officers in future investigations including the arrests of a "back office" and a "financial backer." Congratulations!

5th Newton Reunion

Don't forget the 5th Newton Reunion to be held on Friday, October 2, 1998 at 1500 hours (3 p.m. to ?) at the Los Angeles Police Academy. For further information, contact: Officer Gail Ryan at 213-846-6576, or Officer Jeff Churchill at 213-846-6521.

League Delegates

Newton's delegates include Bob Humphries, Sean Meade, Sandra Rosas, Gail Ryan and Albert Silvas. Newton has zero non-League members.

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RIDING THE RAILS

by Jose Ceja
Transit Rail Division

Vini, Vidi, Vici!

The Julius Caesar of the Transit Group returns to Rome the conquering hero. Captain **Thomas Moselle** relinquished his throne last month, as head honcho of the Transit Rail Division and went home to good ol' Hollenbeck. The Captain was a member of the start-up team, which coordinated the transition of MTA officers to the LAPD. Captain Moselle helped establish, and was the first Captain, of the Transit Rail Division. He set the foundation for what I am sure will become one of the finest Divisions at the LAPD. All the men and women of the Transit Rail Division wish you the best of luck in your new assignment. You leave behind a mighty big pair of running shoes to fill and several severe cases of hat head.

Trains, Planes and Automobiles

This month we had a visitor at TRD, Officer **Gil Campos**, of the elite Air Support unit. Gil Campos became the first officer in the history of the LAPD to serve in an official capacity, on a train, in a black and white, and in an air unit, all in one day! I had the pleasure of working with Officer Campos, who taught me a great deal

about the inner workings of the Air Support Unit. I also got to see him in action. On the day I worked with him, we were informed by a passing motorist of a possible robbery in progress. I immediately steered the car in the direction of the crime. As we approached, we were uncertain as to the direction of travel of the suspect. As we got closer, Officer Campos insisted I begin flying a low altitude orbit around the scene. I explained to him that this would be impossible in our car. This small detail did not hamper the tenacious Campos. He immediately adjusted to his grounds-eye view of the crime and spotted the suspect. Within seconds, Officer Campos had apprehended the felon. As crowds gathered to cheer his heroic efforts, Officer Campos swelled with pride at a job well done. I hope we can work again soon. I'll buy lunch.

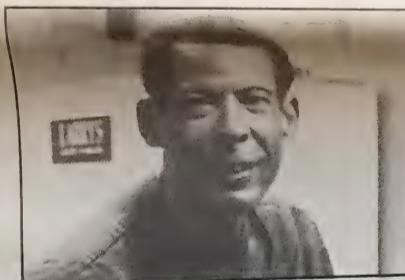
The Babies Keep Coming

Once again it's my pleasure to announce the addition of our newest member. Officer **Matt Zeigler**, and his wife Jennifer were blessed with the arrival of a brand new baby girl, Kristin Michelle. Kristin Michelle is also the granddaughter of retired LAPD Officer **David Zeigler**. No doubt, grandpa is proud of his new "blue blooded" LAPD princess. Congratulations! *

Division With A Mission

by Deon Montgomery
Central Division

On Tuesday, February 10, 1998, Central Area celebrated the recent promotion of Sgt. II **Charles Mealey**



Welcome Back

Central Area welcomes back **Larry Morris** (shoe shine man) from his recent hospital stay. Larry is without equal in his ability to make



Mr. and Mrs. Mealey



Central Division personnel gathered to congratulate Sgt. Mealy on his promotion.



Then Sergeant now Lieutenant, surprised by well wishers.
to Lieutenant. Over two hundred officers, supervisors, command staff and community members attended the "event." The catered event, attended by his wife and three children, was a big and happy surprise for Lt. Mealey.

the officers' leather gear shine. He was greatly missed by all, not only for his outstanding shines but also because he is a nice person.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Central Area's 1997 Employees of the Year. Officer of the Year: **Bryce Spafford**; Sergeant of the Year: **Suzanna Bower**; Detective of the Year: **Russ Long**; Civilian of the Year: **Signe Hilmo**; and Volunteer of the Year: **Tom Tartaglia**.

League Delegates

Central Division's delegates include **Emmett Badar**, **David Nuñez**, **Steve Saleiros**, **Tim Smith** and **Tom Stapleton**. Central has four non-members. *

The Toxic Times

by Greg Doyle
USD - Hazmat Unit

Hello again. My apologies for not writing last month. We've been real busy with admin projects.

Yet Another Story of a Job Well Done by Department Employees

On February 25, 1998, we received a call from Det. **Henebry** of Bunco Forgery Division. Henebry advised us he was preparing to serve a search warrant the following day. The case involved Methamphetamine-using suspects who were "washing" checks. Henebry had received information from an informant that the suspect kept a jar of deadly unknown chemicals in a safe at the location. Supposedly the suspect kept the chemicals to throw on invading thieves or police officers, and it was designed to kill instantly. Naturally, Henebry was concerned for the safety of involved officers, so he requested our assistance.

The warrant service was to occur in the city of West Hollywood. Due to the possibility of chemical contamination, we took along an engine company and RA from LAFD. We also decided to have two Hazmat Unit officers (**Sieber** & **Doyle**) suit up in protective clothing so they could evacuate and decontaminate any members of the entry team that might become contaminated.

Upon arrival, the entry team from BFD made entry and located two suspects. They removed the suspects, and Officers Doyle and Sieber entered to recon the area for the chemicals. Doyle and Sieber located the locked safe and noticed a possible explosive device on top of it. The officers backed out and advised the Incident Commander, BFD Captain **Warkentin**. Capt. Warkentin immediately notified West Hollywood Sheriffs, who sent a supervisor. After conferring with West Hollywood authorities, it was decided that LAPD would handle everything inside the location, and LASO would handle everything outside the location. That being the case, our Bomb Squad (**Pau**, **Joy**, **Lockwood** and **Pandolfo**) responded to handle the possible device. Evacuations were conducted by LASO West Hollywood personnel, with assistance from LAPD Hollywood Division officers.

The city of West Hollywood sent their Winnebago Command Vehicle, and an impromptu command post was set up. Capt. Warkentin and his assistant, Lt. **Bertrand**, did a great job of coordinating the response of all involved agencies. Rarely do we see an operation run this smoothly, even when only city resources are used, but especially when outside agencies are involved.

To make a long story short, the device ended up being a speaker instead of a bomb. After the Bomb Squad did their thing, SID chemists **Sanchez** and **Wysong** entered and checked out the jar. It was determined that the jar contained a product called DMSO, which is easily absorbed through the skin. The idea was to mix the DMSO with poison, thus enabling the poison to be absorbed also. Luckily, the product had not yet been mixed, so the danger was minimal. No other chemicals were found.

Bottom line on this incident is that it went very smoothly, thanks to the forward thinking of BFD personnel.

Their taking the time to call us before the operation enabled us to coordinate with other agencies. Additionally, their ability to communicate with other involved agencies, and their knowledge of SEMS/ICS concepts, helped to keep all involved parties remaining focused and working in a safe manner.

Documentation is Important

Last month, League Director **Tim Sands** wrote in his column about the dangers of exposure to hazardous materials. Retired D-3 **Roy Wunderlich** sent him a letter about his problems after working the Lab Squad. I would like to piggyback on their thoughts by reminding all of you how important exposure documentation is.

If you become exposed to a hazardous material in an on-duty situation, you need to document it and have the records placed in your permanent personnel file. Of course, if you are injured, your supervisor will fill out a 1.66. However, if you are not injured, it is YOUR responsibility to fill out a 15.7. Explicit directions for the completion of the 15.7 can be found in the Department Manual Volume 3/712.10. One 15.7 can be used to document several officers' exposure at the same incident. If the exposure is related to a U.O., and an after-action report is made, a 15.7 is not necessary, however, it can't hurt. Federal regulations require that these exposure records be retained by your employer for 30 years after your separation date. You should also save a copy for yourself.

These exposure records are vitally important should you come down with some exotic disease later in life. Without proper documentation, you will have a hard time convincing the city that your illness is duty-related. In the worst-case scenario, your heirs may be able to use the documentation to argue for higher pension benefits should you die from an on-duty exposure 30 years prior.

Obviously, we hope that you don't get exposed to any hazmat on-duty, but, history shows that it is difficult to do a career in law enforcement without ever being involved in a hazmat incident.

New Phone Number to Report Abandoned Waste

Officer **Donorovich** recently attended a meeting with the city's Stormwater Management Division (SMD). SMD has set up an "800" number for residents to report abandoned waste, spills or other discharges affecting any public right-of-way in the city. This can include hazardous and non-hazardous substances. The hotline operates from 0700-1630, Monday through Friday. Please feel free to write this number down and give it out. As always, if YOU suspect you have a hazmat situation out there, please call us.

SMD Hotline: (800) 974-9794; Off hours/Weekends: (213) 485-2121.

More Divisional Reporter on next page

DIVISIONAL REPORTER



UNIFORMED SUPPORT DIVISION EMERGENCY OPERATION SECTION

by Denise Santo
Emergency Preparedness Unit

Who Are We?

The Emergency Preparedness Unit has recently been established within the Emergency Operations Section of Uniformed Support Division (aka, Tactical Planning Division). The Unit OIC is Sgt. **Sergio Said**, assisted by Officers **Denise Santo** and **Dionne Rapozo**. One of the functions of the unit is to develop, coordinate, and conduct training exercises for field personnel. The exercises will be for major events such as disasters, bomb threats, flooding, etc. The intent is to develop exercises specific to each area, i.e. Hollywood reservoir breaking, then to conduct training at the divisional level for that specific event. We will see you at your division soon.

Emergency Preparedness

The Los Angeles Police Protective League has graciously agreed to publish our article each month in *The Thin Blue Line* to inform the employees and their families on different aspects of Emergency Preparedness, specifically at home. Each month we will examine a different hazard that could affect you and your family and offer suggestions on how to reduce its impacts.

As police officers we are continually advising people how to protect themselves, but we sometimes become complacent when it comes to protecting ourselves by preparing our homes and families for a disaster.

Rain, Rain, Go Away!

This month we are talking about something that has affected us all in one way or another recently...El Niño! Although we are all pretty tired of the

wet stuff, many weather experts believe that the high volume of El Niño related storms will continue well into the spring. We should all be aware that these storms can cause flash floods, contaminate the drinking water, disrupt electrical service and damage homes and contents. Use the following recommendations to help reduce your risk of injuries, property loss and even death.

- Assemble emergency supply kits for your home and car. Make sure all family members know where it is located. The following items should be included: flashlights, sand bags, plastic sheeting, plywood, lumber, tools.
- Store emergency building materials in a location away from potential flooding.
- Teach children not to play in or near rivers, streams, or other areas of potential flooding.
- Maintain fuel in your car.
- Identify safe routes from home or work place and check with local public works to determine if you live in an area subject to flooding.

These are just some of the precautions you can take to help protect yourselves and loved ones in the event of a flood. For more information, you can contact us at our office at 213-485-4011.

Look for us in *The Department's World Wide Website*! We will be publishing information on the Internet in the LAPD web pages.

Editor's note: League delegates for USD are **John Nisbet** and **John Peck**. *

Van Nuys Happenings

by Bob Rose
Van Nuys Division

Well the month of February sure started off on a wet note -- and remained wet the entire month. For those of you who have never worked the valley, everything west of the 405 freeway drains into the Sepulveda Dam basin, which just happens to be in good old Van Nuys area. Thanks for all your runoff Devonshire and West Valley. The Sepulveda Dam captures all this water and sends it down the L.A. flood control channel. Should this system fail, Van Nuys would be given the task of evacuating about fifteen thousand people from the east side of the dam. On February 3, the L.A. City Fire Department was informed that the water was about seven feet from the top of the dam. Captain Hale was given the task of running a multi-agency emergency command center. Lt. **Bob Tumas**, Sgt. **Vinnie Neglia**, Sgt. **Ken Henkle**, and Sgt. **Bill Justice**, just to name a few, were given the task of forming an evacuation plan. The rain soon slacked off and all was saved. Whew...two things I learned: Sgt. **Matt Spillane** can print really fast and really neat, and the pencil sharpeners are awesome in the Command Center trailer. Actually, all of Van Nuys did a great job, from **Bob Denton**, who was a chief scout, to **Ron Allen**, who stayed dry, and if the dam does ever crest, this experience will prove to be invaluable.

Sad to say goodbye to **Kelly Shurian** and **Stuart Guidry**. Metro got a couple of good ones. **Kelly Gibson** made three at Devonshire and **E.J. Pape** did the same at Foothill. Good luck to both. **Doug Bowler** captured the latest spot here at Van Nuys.

Congrats are in order to **Brian Hillman**. He and his wife Lisabeth are the proud parents of Grant Edward Hillman and who checked in on February 12, at 7 lbs. 9 ozs. and 20 inches.

Valley property is losing a couple of old timers in **Jerry Stevens**, the OIC who figured 32 years was plenty, and **Pat Ghanberrg**, the gun czar with 12 years. **Steve Horneview** is the new OIC. Hope nothing changes, this is a great group, always willing to help anyone.

Here I was driving down Vesper Avenue, admiring my just-sewed-on P-3 stripes when some citizen shocked me out of my daydreaming by screaming and yelling something about "He has a gun, he has a gun," which the suspect tossed. Seems we drove up on a 211 in progress. Recovered the gun, booked the bad guy for robbery. They never told me I had to work once I put those things on my sleeve.

On February 14 (Valentine's Day) four of Rampart's fine citizens decided that it was much too dangerous to caper in Rampart. So they took a little trip to the Valley. Found a quaint little jewelry store in a mini mall at 16105 Victory Boulevard. Seemed like a good mark. Across from the flooded dam basin, easy access to the freeway. All went well at first. Parked their Wilshire stolen in the alley. Showed the owner and employees that all four were armed with semi-auto handguns, tied everyone up and filled their pockets and hands with loot. Noted the surveillance camera and untied the owner and took the VCR used to record. Good thinking. Forgot to tie the owner up again. Bad thinking. As soon as the suspects ran out the door the owner armed himself with a .357 two-inch revolver and ran after the suspects. The owner fired three rounds, with all three rounds finding their mark. One hundred percent hit ratio, not too shabby. Two of the suspects went down, never to rise again. The other two were into the wind. (As of this date, only one is outstanding. Both suspects identified from the VCR tape.) **Eiji Yamamoto** and **Dan Robinson** were the first unit on the scene and much to their credit did not shoot the owner who was still holding the smoking gun. **Mel Arnold**, Van Nuys D-3 of Robbery was in the station and responded to the scene. Sgt.

Neglia set up a fine perimeter, and all of this was in a driving rain storm. Yeah, it rained from the beginning of this caper to the bitter end. Guess Sequoia's Jewelry Store is not such an easy mark after all. Robbery Homicide cleared nine other robberies. Reckon these folks should have saved everyone time and trouble and capered in Rampart after all. Good job by all, even if none of us got to stay dry.

Even our Bicycle Detail got in the act. **Bruce Christensen** was writing a ju-



Kim Sheehy in the July remodeled kit room.

venile a citation for being truant. The kid told Bruce that he was late because he was just robbed. Sure kid. But there goes the guy that robbed me. **Tim Saurman** went in pursuit of the suspect who was peddling a chrome tenspeed. Tim could peddle a lot faster and **Jose Hernandez** was booked for 211 and 12 other D.R.'s were cleared. Can't believe they cancelled the victim's citation...need that recap.

And still another robber went down. **Pepe Ugarte** and **Scott Stiller** were driving down Sepulveda Boulevard minding their own business at 2:30 in the morning, when they observed a pedestrian running across the street. Since it was a little early for joggers, Pepe decided to talk to this guy. Well, the guy had just been 211'ed and "the two that did it are right over there." Can you believe that these two did not want to talk to Pepe or Scott? They are really nice guys. Why would they run away? Well the pooch was summoned and he sniffed his way to an apartment building, and the correct apartment. I didn't

know K-9 doggies could do that. A field show-up, I.D. both suspects, back-tracked, find the knife used. Two more in jail for 211...

In the last *Blue Line* Sports Section, I noted that Van Nuys was in first place in basketball. Shows how little they tell me. Did not know we even had a basketball team. Then **Rich Wemmer** shows up on a training day at the Academy, all sweaty and announced that we won our League undefeated with a victory over a great Southeast team. **Andy Markel**, **Dan Lehman**, **John Goslin**, **Glen O'Shea**, **Roy Brown**, **Daryl Brown**, and **Doug Miller** are to be congratulated on an absolutely outstanding job. Rich told me this team won due to superior teamwork, not athletic ability. If an old guy like Rich Wemmer was on the team, it must have been so.

Our kit room has finally been completed. Maybe **Kim** can now throw **Ken Tierse** out of her domain. Saw **Bob Shallenberger** hanging out in the parking lot. He wasn't lost, just keeping a spot clear for the delivery of our new air conditioning units. I'll believe it when I see them installed and working.

Hey, lots happened. Hope things calm down in March. After all, don't these people realize this is the Valley...for sure...see ya next.



Bob Shallenberger #12260 just hanging around the parking lot.

League Delegates

Van Nuys Div. delegates include **Shawn Fairman**, **Mitzi Grasso**, **Jeff Hart**, **Mark Kelly** and **Mitch Robins**. Van Nuys has four non-members.

NoHo News

by Adolfo Godinez
North Hollywood Division

Well it seems that El Niño is going away little by little and our "new" station is holding up OK and hasn't washed away into the wash next door. Here at No Ho we've had to contend with mudslides and toppling homes being washed away. We even had a couple of officers who thought they were Moses in the Red Sea and drove through a flooded intersection, thinking it would part for them. The result was a stranded black and white and lots of embarrassment for the officers (who will remain unnamed for this story).

1.20 Changes

It seems that the friendly baby stork has hit again at No Ho Station. The latest recipient was **Mark White** and his wife who gave birth to a baby boy, Michael John-Joseph, who was born on February 8th, at 7 pounds, 8 ounces. Both mom and baby are doing



The passing of the torch: P-1 Chris Marsden and his father P-3 John Marsden.

The stork is still in a holding pattern for the following personnel: **Diane Chavez** (who by the time this article is out will probably be at home recovering), **Kathy O'Shea** in Detectives, and **Norma Kukla** in the SLO office.

Cool Capers

The other day some dirtbag from Hollywood decided that he could come to our division and escape from his dirty deed in his home town. As he flew off the freeway like a bat out of hell, he caught the attention of our very own Officer **Booth** who was in patrol in Studio City during that lovely rainy afternoon. Well Mr. Bad Guy took one look at the Chevy patrol car and decided what the heck. As the



True partners in crime: McGruff, Tweety Bird and Santa Claus.

pursuit went into the Laurel Canyon hills above Studio City, Officer Booth kept his cool and did a great broadcast as he pursued the perp. The perp

finally crashed his own car and decided to ram the police car in a futile attempt to flee. Both he and Booth ended up on the rain swollen gutter as Officer Booth took him into custody. It turns out the guy was wanted for a carjacking in Hollywood and had a whole bunch of warrants for vice-related offenses, hence the pursuit. Our thanks go out to an anonymous gentleman who assisted Officer Booth in the arrest of this very wet and slippery perp (it had something to do with placing his foot on the guy's back to prevent him from getting up. Like a true hero, before we could thank him). And who said chivalry is dead...

Officer of the Month

Congrats go out to **Julius "JJ" Resnick** and **Michael "Igot the vice spot" Eck** who are No Ho's Officers of the Month for February and March, 1998. And, of course, your checks are in the mail.

League Delegates

North Hollywood Division's delegates include **Ray Espinosa**, **Bob Schlesinger** and **Chris Vasquez**. North Hollywood has one non-League member.

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All 'R'-Round Town

by Michael Albanese
Metropolitan Division

Metro News

The folks just keep on coming! Eleven new Metro cops this month and there will be even more new arrivals next DP. 'A' Platoon welcomes: Officers **Mary Grace Rivera**, **John Harrison**, and **John Bertino**; to 'B' Platoon: Officers **Marcello Raffi**, **Wesley Albin**, **Kenneth Thatcher III**, and **Chris Canales**; and to 'C' Platoon: Officers **Damon Aoki**, **Johnny Smith**, **Dave Stambaugh**, and **Abraham Flores**. Welcome aboard folks!

A little bit of Metro history occurred when Officer **Kenneth Thatcher III** arrived to Metro on March 15th. Kenny III is the son of 3+1 **Kenneth Thatcher II** (D-Platoon). The "third" has been assigned to 'B' Platoon and his first Metro partner is the old veteran, Officer **Phil**

tions to **Tom Chinappi** (A-Platoon), **Greg Gonzales** (A-Platoon), **Mark Stori** (B-Platoon), **Rudy Romero** (C-Platoon), **Manny Redruello** (C-Platoon), **Rick Massa** (D-Platoon), and **Scott Reitz** (MOS-Divisional Shooting Instructor).

Congratulations are also in order for Officer **George Ryan** on his permanent assignment to SWAT.

On February 23rd, 'D' Platoon held their annual SWAT dinner at the Police Academy. Jay Leno was the guest emcee, and there were lots of young and old timers at the dinner, including **Daryl Francis Gates**. At the dinner several officers were recognized for their achievements during this past year. Officer **John Dohle** was selected as Sniper of the Year. Officers **Don Anderson**, **Steve** (now Sgt.) **Gomez**, and **Rick Massa** (big month for Rick) were recognized as

gratulations to John, Donnie, Steve and Rick!

Additional congratulations are in order for K-9 Officer **Mike Harrington** on the certification of his K-9, **Carlos**. Officer Mike and Carlos participated in an extensive certification process and "Carlos" is now street legal.

We've got a number of folks recovering from surgeries and we wish them well during their rehabilitation process. Mounted Unit's **Maggie St. Clair**, and 'D' Platoon's **Chuck Wohlfeiler** and **Rob Melchior**.

Closing thoughts: On March 9th, senior SWAT Sergeant **Charles Duke** will undergo his first of three IOD related surgeries. His first surgery is a delicate back operation and once he recovers from that surgery he'll then have both his knees operated on. Essentially, Charlie's last working day was on March 5th and it is doubtful he will return to work after his surgeries. The Divi-

sion wishes Charlie the best as he goes under the knife and during his recovery process. Charlie spent the better part of his career in Metro and SWAT. His expertise and leadership will be greatly missed by the troops and his peers. It is believed that Charlie's long term goals are to retire to the Reno, Nevada area and "just golf." Hopefully, his surgeries will result in the health and handicap he's looking forward to. The best, Charlie.

(Editor's note: The Thin Blue Line thanks Sgt. Albanese for going above and beyond the call of duty while continuing his reporting even as recent disabilities have kept him in a brace and hindered his typing abilities.)

Metro Division Delegates

Metro's delegates include **George Lopez**, **Richard Rakitis**, **Rocky Rockhold**, **Phil Shattuck**, and **Ron Terrazas**. Metro has one non-League member.

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More Divisional Reporter on next page



Friends and family join Metro officer George Lopez and his wife Consuelo at the grand opening of their new restaurant in Sierra Madre.

Mele. In October of 1976, Kenny the "second" arrived at Metro and his first partner was the much younger Phil Mele. Now here's the deal: Either Mele has been here way too long, or our children are growing way too fast - pretty incredible. Congrats to the Thatcher family and good luck to Phil Mele on squaring away another Thatcher. It'll be interesting at the Metro roll calls!

Metro has seven new 3+1s. Due to promotions and the divisional expansion, we have at least one new 3+1 in each platoon. Congratula-

"SWAT Officers of the Year." This is the first time there have been multiple officers selected for the SWAT Officer of the Year award. All three were the hands-down obvious choice for the award due to their personal courage and professionalism they demonstrated last February 27th -- the North Hollywood Bank of America shootout. Moreover, it was the first time an officer, Donnie Anderson, has been bestowed the honor of SWAT Officer of the Year more than once. Con-

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DIVISIONAL REPORTER



The WLA Journal

by Bill Dunn
West L.A. Division

Once SLO Steve Cunningham made sergeant, a search was diligently undertaken to find a new "Mr. Palisades" for West Los Angeles Division. Applicants were asked a wide range of questions such as: "Who is the city councilperson for the area?", "Where is Palisades Drive?", and "What is the name of the thin, tan-colored foam which appears on the top of a well made Espresso?" Answering all of these questions correctly was P-3 Mario L. Gonzalez, West L.A.'s new Mr. Palisades! Yes, the Mario Gonzalez who used to work Hollenbeck CRASH and walk a footbeat in the Pico Alico Projects now wears the crown of Mr. P. Wear it proudly, my son. Talk about life changes...

I am still totally amazed by Sgt. Andy Voge, who continues his recovery from cerebral cancer. He is an incredible inspiration to the entire division! The best thing about having Andy back is his humor, which is about as dry as Death Valley during a heat wave! Keep getting better, big blue!

West L.A. has also added another big color, that being "Big Red." Sgt. Dave Dolan has joined us from Training Division, and before that, Southwest. I remember the Sarge as a 100 miles an hour street copper at Southwest who had an affinity for putting bad guys in jail. So I expect he'll be the same as a Sarge. Great to have you here!

Sgt. Terri Brinkmeyer is now Assistant Watch Commander for Day Watch! Sgt. Brinkmeyer is a fine complement to Sgt. Voge, as she too has a dry sense of humor. The Sarge also wants everyone to know that if anyone has any problem on day watch to just call her. Anyone. Anywhere. Just call her. Because she's helpful, that's just her...

Hats off to West L.A.'s SPU Unit. Led by the unflappable Sgt. Carson E. Pierce, West L.A.'s SPU Unit has done an excellent job combating West L.A.'s special problems. SPU is Officers Todd "Big B" Bracht, Ken "Chaw" Collard, George "I am the Batman" Godfrey, Ben "Eddie Munster" McPheeters, Martin "I don't wear red tights" Mojarro, and Germain "Just call me V" Vtacion.

A Commendable Cop Caper

West L.A. CRASH Officers Andy Marr and Eric Spear were stopped in the area of Guthrie and Holt Avenues, talking with some of West L.A. Division's fine young "Playboy Gangster Crip" gang members. Playboys gang members had been involved in a shooting the previous day where a rival had been shot in the head. As officers spoke with these gangsters they observed two other well known gang members walk from around a nearby corner towards them. Which was good, because both Spear and Marr are people-orientated police officers who love to chat.

But upon seeing the officers, one of the gangsters stopped dead in his tracks, spun, and then quickly walked away. The officers, amazed that any Playboy Crip wouldn't want to walk to them (and quite frankly, a little hurt by the rebuff), began to follow. Next thing they knew, the gangster broke into a dead run. The officers, further hurt by this added rebuff, also ran. Then the suspect pulled out a handgun, a large frame .38 caliber. Now the officers' feelings were really hurt!

But the gangster threw the weapon on the ground, and then after a few moments of barricading himself in a nearby apartment building, he gave himself up. Good arrest! But it gets better. Upon reviewing the report from the previous day, this suspect matches the shooter, and the weapon matches the type used. Ballistics are still pending, but it sure looks like a match. Great job!

Last issue I missed a few March anniversaries. So here they are: Sgt. Kraig Seltzer and Officer Rich Aston, class of 3/79; Det. Paul "Tequila Mockingbird" Bishop and Lt. James Markloff, class of 3/77; Det. Jeff Brumagin and Officer John "Big Daddy" Vanderwal, class of 3/74; Officer Phil Berry, class of 3/72; and the grand-daddy of all March: Sgt. Nick "the Slick" Barbara, class of 3/68! Think about it, Lyndon Johnson was President when Nick was running up and down Baxter. And he's still in better shape than most of the P-1s.

League Delegates

West L.A. League delegates include Carl McGill, Phil Berry, Ed Purcell and Bobby Smith. West L.A. has two non-members.

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SOUTHEAST 4 INFO ONLY

Where Success Is More Than Just The Name Of A Street

by Candy Delgado
Southeast Division

First of all, I have to make a corrective to last month's article. Officer Nancy Walden was not a helicopter mechanic, she was a pilot. Her unit was disbanded, so she is joined the National Guard and is still an active reserve.

Officer Wilberto Torres is the new father of a baby boy named Wilberto Torres, Jr. Torres' wife, Suzette, delivered a little early.



Wilberto, Jr. weighed in at 5 pounds, 11 ounces, and was 18 inches long. He was born on February 19, at 0532 hours. Mom and baby were fine and are at home. Congratulations!

Officer Timothy Colomey is



back to work. He is working in Detectives, at the CRASH table. You haven't seen him the last month because he has been off on his honeymoon. He married his Academy class sweetheart, Officer Marci Scialdone, assigned to Harbor Division. They were married on March 14, and then went off for a 10-day honeymoon cruise. It's nice

to be able to report good things about Tim for a change.

Police Officers Playing Santa Claus and Delivering Toys in Police Vehicles

Southeast Police Officers Richard Moberg, Oswaldo Pedemonte and Bob Smith are suiting up not in bright red Santa Claus suits, but rather in their police uniforms. They are loading up approximately 1,500 to 2,000 toys not in a sled, but instead in their black and white police vehicles.

The officers went to the Los Angeles government subsidies housing areas (Jordan Downs, Nickerson Garden and Imperial Courts) giving out toys to the boys and girls in the areas. The officers also conducted traffic stops not giving a traffic citation, but rather giving toys to citizens who have little children. This event is held in response to the needy families who cannot afford to buy toys for their kids. This worthwhile event started on December 22 and ended on Christ-



mas Eve, December 24, 1997. Hundreds of kids lined up to receive toys and after getting a toy they left with a smile.

The Southeast Community Police Station received toys from numerous miscellaneous companies. The Commanding Officer, Captain Lorenzen, and the officers at the Southeast division wanted to bring joy and laughter to the community and build bridges for better communications. This effort is to bring unity between the po-

lice department and the local community to enhance community-based policing.

Lt. Hanns Ruth is a fashion trendsetter. He thinks CHP blue nylon socks look better with his uniform. Nice look Hanns! I have to get



my last few shots in at Hanns; he will be retired by July. Don't forget to put his retirement party date on your calendar. It is scheduled for July 10, at the Academy. Speaking of retirements, Det. I Thomas Vincello had his retirement party on February 27, at the Academy. He was showered with gifts and it was nice for me to finally meet his wife and other family members I have heard so much about over the year.

As always, there is room for one more here at Southeast, including another Martin. We now have three Martins assigned to the MAC table: Harvey Martin, Dave Martin and our newly assigned detective from Newton, James Martin. Welcome aboard! And just so we can have a full house with three Martins and two Delgados, my husband, Detective Vincent Delgado has come back to Detectives, working CRASH. You can all breathe a sigh of relief and not run for your rep when he says he needs to talk to you. Have a happy Easter.

League Delegates

Southeast Division's delegates include Wayne Bootow, Jon Evers, Mike Flanagan, Mike Lockett, and Paul Scire. Southeast has seven non-members.

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Westward Ho

by Debbi Friedman
West Hollywood Division

I hope all of you congratulated Officer **Tom Zwinger**. Tom was Officer of the Quarter and was honored by the West Valley Optimist Club and our very own Captain **Paniccia**. Lots of West Valley officers arrived at the breakfast to show their support for Tom. If anyone deserved Officer of the Quarter it is definitely you, Tom. Congratulations again. Not to change the tone from good to bad, but here is an interesting story concerning Tom. Good ol' Tom was doing his thing at the front desk, taking reports, answering the phones and being courteous as always to our public. Tom was being Tom -- friendly and approachable. After Tom had completed taking a report from a female customer in the lobby, would you believe that this woman had the audacity to make a complaint against Tom? And for what, do you ask? Because Tom failed to look at this woman in the face while taking her report. Now it was told to me by a highly respected and responsible source that Tom Zwinger, in his great and mighty 28-year career with the LAPD, has never, until now, never ever had a

personnel complaint. But with our new system of justice, good ol' Tom, who is Officer of the Quarter, is not going out with a bang, but is going out with a *Burnie*.

This is a special message to parents with kids. Officer **Tony Drake**, who is currently working P.M.'s has been volunteering his time at a local burn center. Tony advised me that the burn center is in extreme need of clothing for children of all ages. These kids at the burn center are from abused homes where they have suffered some degree of burns on their little bodies. These kids have no clothing or no one to visit them. If anyone out there has any clothes that your child or your neighbors' kids have outgrown and are still in good condition, please bring them in and either give the clothes to Tony or myself. Your donations would be greatly appreciated by these helpless little angels. Also, if you are interested in spending some time with these little tykes, please get a hold of Tony Drake (E-mail P2Drake@AOL.Com). Thank you.

Before I get into some of the Copper Capers, I want to let you all know that I'm looking for a new and better title for our divisional article. I want your input. This is your arti-

cle. So E-mail me with your suggestions or write them down and hand them to me when you see me.

Copper Capers

Officer **Ryan Cooper**, who was assigned to the U-boat, observed a traffic violation. While following the vehicle and running it for wants/warrants, the driver stopped in front of a residence and exited the vehicle. Thank goodness the MDTs were working for a change because at that moment the W/W check revealed the vehicle was a Code 6 Charles and taken in an armed robbery. Can you imagine what was going through Cooper's mind as that C-6 Charles appeared on the screen? Well, Cooper immediately requested assistance, felony pronounced the suspect out and waited for the cavalry to arrive. During the search of the suspect, a loaded and chambered .32 cal. semi-auto handgun was recovered from the suspect's jacket pocket. Ryan, you are one lucky rascal. While searching the suspect's vehicle, additional evidence of two other robberies was recovered, along with nylon stockings to mask the suspect's identity. Super observation and great arrest. See what a simple traffic stop can get you? Your very own name in the *Blue Line*. Keep up the hard work.

Officers **Heaney and Brkic** were driving in the 7300 block of Milwood when they heard several shots fired. No? Not in that lovely

part of town. The officers approached a group of possibly teenage boys to conduct a curfew check. As the officers approached they observed a male, white teenager remove a .38 cal. revolver from under his jacket and toss it. The teenager then knelt down and dropped a baggie of marijuana on the sidewalk. At this point the teenager stood up and began to push at all the secured access buttons to the apartment complex in an attempt to get away from the officers. But gee, guess what? Heaney and Brkic were not about to let this little rugrat disappear and quickly took the problem child into custody. The best thing about this whole incident is the little idiot's statement as he was being led to the police car: "The gun's not mine. I'm tough, all I need is my fist." What a moron. Later on it was revealed that the gun was a West Valley stolen. Good police work you two. Great obs!

Well, time to go. Wish I had more space 'cause I have a lot of good stories. Oh well, we'll save it for the next issue. Stay safe out there and back each other up! This is 10A33, I'm clear and EOW.

League Delegates

West Valley Division delegates include **Tom Barnhart**, **Kitori Lint**, **Tom Mason**, **Paul Sciarillo**, and **Joseph Kalyn**. West Valley Division has three non-members.

*

Goodbyes

Fond farewells to Sgt. **Jeff Paillet**, who finally made it back to Harbor Division, and **Espy Espino**, who has been able to move to greener pastures at MSD (and you thought you would be stuck here forever!). Thank you both for the hard work you have demonstrated while at IAG, and good luck.

Congratulations to new Capt. **Kirk Albanese** on his promotion out of IAG to 77th Division. It seemed like he just got here!

Loans

If you are a sergeant or detective, and you would like to work IAG In-

vestigation Section in the future, we would encourage you to speak with your commanding officer about a two-month loan. Then, submit a 15.88, two recent ratings, your 1.6 and a photograph to the Adjutant, Sgt. Debra Kirk. The Advocate Section also is looking for highly motivated and dedicated sergeants and detectives. If you have any questions or would like to apply, please call Debra at extension 5-4152.

League Delegates

Sgt. **Tom Wunsch** and **T. K. Storaker** are the delegates for IAG. Internal Affairs has two non-members.

*

More Divisional Reporter on next page

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DIVISIONAL REPORTER



DEVONSHIRE DOGS

by Floyd Toledo, Drew Thompson and Joyce Severs
Devonshire Division

Ins-N-Outs

"Devonshire Dogs" welcome new arrivals: flying into the Valley from Pacific is Detective I **Abel Parga**. Looks like he took a private plane 'cause he landed with only four officers from the Academy. Our new P-1s are: **M. Hammet**, **A. Hotchkiss**, **S. Kim** and **D. Valerio**.

Departing and going solo is P-2 **D. Gaglione**, who is headed for North Hollywood. Wishing you fair weather on your flight.

Detective Doings

"Death of a Devonshire Legend" -- All of Devonshire was deeply saddened by the sudden death of "The Fish" or as he was better known, "Moby Dick." "Moby" started his career with the LAPD in February of 1992 when, during the movement of some detective desks, an old one-gallon fish tank was discovered. Det. **Billy Berndt** took custody of the tank and thought nothing more of it. Sometime later, during a lunch period, Officer **John Gonzales** purchased one small goldfish for 25 cents from a local Chatsworth pet store. Officer Gonzales presented it to Billy for the fish tank. During the next six years, "Moby" was assigned to the Juvenile, Burglary, CAPS, Major Crimes, Homicide Tables, and, since he did not have much seniority, completed a four-month tour on night watch. In all of these assignments, Devonshire Detectives could always count on "Moby" for his support and his smiling face ever present in the squad room. Over the years, "Moby," for whatever reason, grew and grew. The one-gallon tank gave way to a five-gallon tank. And that gave way to a ten-gallon tank. Just prior to his death, "Moby's" weight was estimated at 1/4 pound.

"Moby" was a favorite with various children's groups on station tours, and was also known by Deputy Chiefs and CDOs alike.

"Moby" died as he lived, at work on his desk. The notification of death was made by the Night Watch Detective to Detective Berndt on February 12, just three days short of "Moby's" sixth anniversary with the LAPD. "Moby" was interred in a small private ceremony at Proctor's Park, directly across from the station where

he had spent so much time. He will be missed.

Devonshire Area Employees of the Month for November 1997

The following officers, assigned to the Devonshire Area Detective School Car and the Juvenile Car were selected as Devonshire Area's employees of the month for November 1997: Officers **F. Soberanes**, **C. Frus**, **L. Cameron**, and **D. Graham**.

Officers Soberanes and Frus, assigned to the School Car, are responsible for all school-related calls that involve juveniles. They also liaison with LAUSD administrators and have established a good working relationship with the school principals, school police, and school administrative staff. Because of their dedication and hard work they have been able to



Lt to Rt: L. Cameron, C. Frus, F. Soberanes, D. Graham.

increase truancy enforcement by 40%.

Officers Cameron and Graham, assigned to the Juvenile Car during PM hours, are responsible, but not limited to, run-away children, child abuse, child endangering, and sexual assaults involving children. They have been responsible for a 30% increase in juvenile arrests for curfew violations.

Officers Cameron, Soberanes, Frus, and Graham are commended for their outstanding initiative, dedication to duty, teamwork, perseverance and personal commitment to excellence which they demonstrated during the month of November 1997.

Devonshire Area Employees of the Month for December 1997

The senior supervisory staff of the Devonshire Detective Division has been selected by the Devonshire Area command staff as employees

of the month for December 1997. Due to their teamwork, expertise and commitment to serving the community, the following Detective IIs have been selected: **G. Barthelmess**, **T. Broad**, **K. Crocker**, **A. Foti**, **R. Lyons**, **M. White**.

1997 was a tremendous year for Devonshire Detective Division.



Officer Danny Shry of Devonshire P.E.D. unit is loved by his beautiful bride, as shown by her sending him these romantic



Lt to Rt: R. Lyons, G. Barthelmess, M. White, A. Foti, K. Crocker.



Lt to Rt: G. Parshall #11, B. Crees, J. Nicholson #3, C. Hewitt, C. Corona #10, D. Costi, M. Moreno #8, B. Rothman, J. Branson, L. Gerdes #5, M. Allstot #6, A. Elfarras #4.

Early in the year, the Division set high Part I clearance rate goals, reflective of and in support of crime reduction goals set by Devonshire Area and the Department. As a result of the leadership, commitment and dedication on the part of Devonshire Detective Coordinators, the Division experienced the highest clearance rate in the area's history, at 38%.

Sports

Basketball -- Our "Bulldogs" basketball team, competing in the B League of this intradepartmental basketball season, reached the final four before begin upset by Newton Division, 48-44. Each of the following team members are to be honored for their participation: **C. Corona**, **D. Costi**, **B. Crees**, **J. Branson**, **A. Elfarras**, **L. Gerdes**, **R. Ferror**, **K. Ortiz**, **G. Parshall**, **M. Moreno**, **J. Nicholson**, and **F. Toledo**.

And talking about basketball...on February 21st our men played in a half-time exhibition event during the CSUN vs. Sacramento game. Fifty Devonshire fans were treated to a "Kenny Rogers" catered pre-game dinner. The fans were also treated to the sparkling routines of the LAPD Centurion cheerleader squad, which also includes Devonshire's own Officer **Sarah Faden**. Thanks to the following players: **B. Crees**, **R. Ferror**, **K. Ortiz**, **B. Rothman**, **J. Parker**, **O. Martinez**, **H. Sebring**, **R. Norman**, **A. Moody**, **D. Costi**, **C. Corona**, and coaches **G. Leary** and **F. Toledo**.

We would like to give a special thanks to Councilman Hal Benson for all his support in sponsoring our team and providing our uniforms.

Softball -- League play is starting in March. Anyone interested in participating, you can contact **Ernie Fischer** or **Cesar Corona**.

League Delegates

Devonshire delegates include **Dennis Feeley**, **Bill Mares**, **Floyd Toledo**, and **Dan Welle**. Devonshire has four non-members. *

More Divisional Reporter on page 33

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REMEMBERING FRIENDS

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JANUARY 23, 1926 TO FEBRUARY 6, 1998

A Eulogy for a True Policeman

The Los Angeles Police Department and the police profession has lost one of its modern legends. "Nick the Cop" Najera passed away on February 6, 1998. Fernando J. Najera was born in Jerome, Arizona, on January 23, 1921. His early years were spent in El Paso, Texas.

He was a man born to the "Warrior Class." He fought bravely with the 101st Airborne during the Normandy Invasion. At Bastogne, he earned a Silver Star, Bronze Star, EAME Campaign with four Bronze Stars, and a Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster. His experience with the "Screaming Eagles" in World War II set the stage for his life in many ways. A life of courage, commitment and service above and beyond the call of duty - a love of his country and community.

In 1947 he made a decision that would allow him to realize a level of excellence and fulfillment that few of us achieve in life. He joined the Los Angeles Police Department and became what he was born to be - a "cop." He was one of a select few in our profession. Nick was "The Natural." To him, police work was more than a job; it was a way of life. Nick was an original. He was one of

a kind. He was bigger than life. Nick was an "icon."

Everyone knows several "Nick the Cop" police stories. Many of them would be unbelievable unless you knew "Nick." There are few criminals in northeast Los Angeles who do not know and respect him. He was the master of "The Hink." He could not only spot the telltale signals of guilt by people who had just committed a crime, he could see the signals before the crime was committed. He was "street smart" and knew all the "players." He had an amazing intuitive sense of what action to take. In authentic "street police work" timing is everything. He had it. He knew when to close in, when to hang back and give the bandit a little more rope. He knew what the "bad guy" was going to do before he did. He just had an amazing gift for police work.

Nick was ahead of his time. He was one of the first "community-based" police officers. He policed the neighborhood where he lived...and died -- El Sereno. He was committed to serving the people in his community and often he placed himself "in harm's way" while doing

continued on page 50

Onion Field Investigator

continued from cover page

sometime driver, in Lakewood, Colorado. Wambaugh's book detailed the persecution of Karl Hettinger, who very nearly was held morally responsible for Ian Campbell's death by some within LAPD and others within our profession, but it was Pierce Brooks who defended Hettinger's conduct in the final analysis.

Among my valued collections is a series of various reports and writings by Brooks and former Deputy Chief Thad Brown, addressed to Chief William H. Parker, concerning the Campbell slaying, particularly the actions of the killers and the officers. Said Thad Brown of Pierce Brooks in his April 16, 1964 memo to Chief Parker, "Having the utmost confidence in Sergeant Brooks' investigative ability, I asked him to reduce to writing his opinion of Officer Hettinger's conduct and actions. In my opinion Sergeant Brooks is one of the most competent investigators this Department has ever been fortunate to have; therefore, I put much credence in his opinion and hereby submit the reports he made, that they might be made a part of Officer Hettinger's file. I would like at this time to request that Officer Hettinger be made available for assign-

ment to the Detective Bureau." /s/ Thad F. Brown, Deputy Chief, Commander, Detective Bureau

In concluding his analysis of the case, Pierce Brooks wrote, "Officer Campbell's conduct thus placed Officer Hettinger in a sudden and unexpected dilemma. Hettinger was covering an unarmed and unmoving suspect, Smith, standing on the sidewalk. Suddenly he is told by Powell to give his gun to Smith. His partner verified his predicament and twice asks Hettinger to give up his gun. There was no cover available for Hettinger and he could not have shot Powell without shooting Campbell first. A commendation for Officer Hettinger is attached under separate heading, commanding him for his alertness and presence of mind in making his escape, his aid and cooperation with investigators while in an exhausted condition, and his outstanding testimony during the trial under considerable stress." Respectfully submitted, /s/ P. R. Brooks

If you haven't read Wambaugh's *The Onion Field*, you should do so. It will acquaint you with this wonderful man behind badge number 5702, and details

continued on page 50

montana



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the Internet via fiber optic cable to each property. Each homesite is provided with six separate phone lines and Internet access at speeds up to 1.5 million bps for instantaneous response. Coupled with a full array of underground utilities, Grouse Mountain Estates is one of the most technologically advanced communities anywhere. Homesites range from 1 to 5 acres and are offered from \$100,000 to \$650,000.

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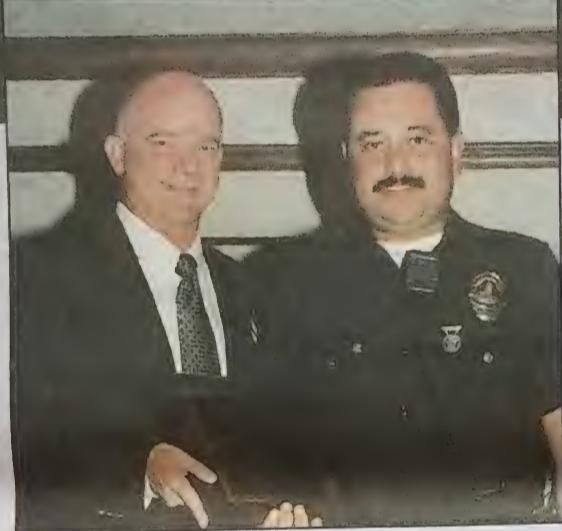
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Sixth Annual THIN BLUE LINE 1997 Recognition



Divisional reporters acknowledged for their contributions and dedication while submitting at least eight articles to the TBL.



Ofc. Ruben Rodriguez of Hollenbeck Division was named Divisional Reporter of the Year.



For his photographic coverage of the North Hollywood bank robbery, Mr. Mike Meadows nabbed the Photo(s) of the Year award.



The 1997 Outstanding Story of the Year was authored by Ofc. Gail Ryan of Newton Division.



TBL Associate Editor, Helen McVay, (center) proudly displaying her "Editor's Award" plaque, flanked by Director, Lenny Muñoz, Office Manager, Lisa Burrola, Secretary, Sandra Perez-Negron, and Receptionist, Yolie Rivera.



Charlie Meter (LAPD—ret.) writes the American Legion column in the Veteran's Corner and was acknowledged for his efforts.



Celebrated author, screenwriter and former agent, Gerald Petievich was special guest at the 5th Annual Thin Blue Line Awards Dinner.



Retired LAPD Sergeant, Pat accepts his plaque. Pat was a member of the Thin Blue Line Review Committee for his contributions to the members of the publication of his book on TBL over a year and a half ago.



TBL Associate Editor, Helen McVay, Author/Screenwriter, Gerald Petievich, and Director/Editor, Lenny Muñoz, enjoying a good laugh at the TBL Awards Dinner.

THIN BLUE LINE

Recognition Awards



Lt. Nick Zingo, on behalf of North Hollywood Division, accepted the award for the Top Commendable Copper Caper of 1997. His winning article aptly described the infamous Bank of America shootout.



Thin Blue Line
Editor Lenny
Muñoz presenting
Mr. Petievich with
Plaque of
Appreciation for
his efforts on
behalf of the
League.



For his inspiring written work, "Just a Cop," Oregon State Trooper, Monty Ritchey, received the Poem of the Year Award.



For his dedication to the "Swim With Mike" Foundation, Ofc. Ed Russell was named the Best "Beyond the Badge" Feature for 1997.



Mr. Tim Barkas
acknowledged for his
written contributions to
the TBL Beyond the
Badge feature.



D Sergeant, Pat Connelly, happily
accepted his plaque. Pat was acknowledged by
the Line Review Committee for his
contribution to the membership by allowing
the publication of his book on running in the
year and a half period.



TBL Publisher Mark Deitch (center) with his staff.

6th Annual Thin Blue Line Recognition Awards

by Lenny Muñoz

As a League Director and the Editor of the Protective League's monthly publication, it gives me great pleasure to present to you, the readership, the honorees of the Sixth Annual Thin Blue Line Recognition Awards.

These recipients have given tremendous personal effort and sacrificed their own time to make the *Thin Blue Line* what it is today, and that is, the most popular union newspaper in law enforcement circles.

Thank you all for your contributions.



BEYOND THE BADGE



Unique Officer Supports Special Olympics With Very Special Community Event

Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt. —Oath of the Special Olympics

by Tim Barkas
TBL Feature Writer

Good things come in threes, they say, and LAPD Sgt. Danny Mastro is a triple-threat if ever there was one. Last month, Mastro managed to help a worthy cause, support the developmentally disabled people it serves, and improve community relations, all in one fell swoop.

The fell swoop to which we refer is the LAPD West Valley Division's fourth annual "Tip-A-Cop" event, which Mastro has worked tirelessly to organize and promote. During Tip-A-Cop, dozens of Mastro's fellow West Valley officers volunteered for a brief change of

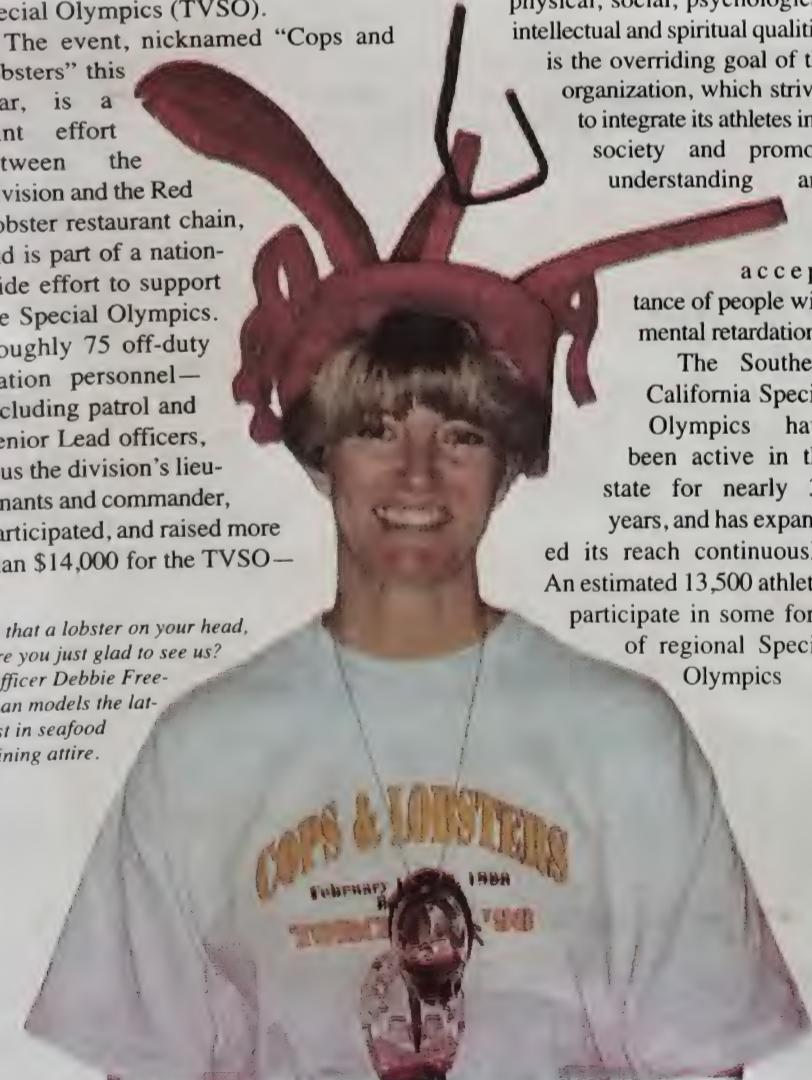


Sgt. Danny Mastro and Special Olympics supporter (and current Miss USA) Randi Sherwood.

careers, trading their uniforms and citation books for dish towels and serving trays in order to raise money (through tips, of course) to support the Tri-Valley Special Olympics (TVSO).

The event, nicknamed "Cops and Lobsters" this year, is a joint effort between the Division and the Red Lobster restaurant chain, and is part of a nationwide effort to support the Special Olympics. Roughly 75 off-duty station personnel—including patrol and Senior Lead officers, plus the division's lieutenants and commander, participated, and raised more than \$14,000 for the TVSO—

Is that a lobster on your head, are you just glad to see us?
Officer Debbie Freeman models the latest in seafood dining attire.



more than double last year's total.

They raised the money by performing the duties of busboys and waitresses during some portion of the two-day event, which began with the lunch crowd around 11 a.m. and continued until 10 p.m.—well after the dinner hour.

That's why, for two days last month, the West Hills eating establishment was dubbed "the safest restaurant in America." Participating officers earned their "tips" by pouring water, carrying trays of dirty dishes back to the kitchen and spending a few minutes with restaurant patrons, talking to them about the focus of all this hard work: The Special Olympics.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS—A SPECIAL PURPOSE

The mission of the Special Olympics is to provide sports training and competition opportunities in a variety of Olympic-type sporting events for children and adults challenged by mental retardation.

Developing these athletes' physical, social, psychological, intellectual and spiritual qualities is the overriding goal of the organization, which strives to integrate its athletes into society and promote understanding and

acceptance of people with mental retardation.

The Southern California Special Olympics have been active in the state for nearly 30 years, and has expanded its reach continuously. An estimated 13,500 athletes participate in some form of regional Special Olympics

event in California. Established nearly 20 years ago, the Tri-Valley Special Olympics (TVSO) branch serves nearly a thousand athletes in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys, Glendale and Burbank. TVSO is one of several local branches of the Southern California Special Olympics, which is itself a chapter of the Special Olympics International. Athletes can join Special Olympics as early as age five, compete at eight, and continue to participate throughout adulthood.

The Special Olympics offers competition in numerous individual and team events, including basketball, softball, aquatics, bowling, gymnastics, roller skating, track and field, and equestrian contests funded entirely through charitable donations.

Sadly, TVSO officials estimated that only about 15% of the individuals in the region who might be eligible actually participate in Special Olympics events. An outreach program is currently being established to contact prospective athletes and encourage them to participate. Volunteers are needed to help in this important task.

The Special Olympics operates entirely on private donations, which come from hundreds of individuals, families, corporations, foundations, civic organizations and employee groups. They receive no government funding and are not a member of the United Way.

ENTER DANNY MASTRO

Tip-A-Cop events have been held throughout the United States to support



"I'm just gonna go home and sleep for a few days"
Tip-A-Cop event organizer Sgt. Danny Mastro said as the event concluded its second day.

the Special Olympics for several years. In 1997 alone, participating law enforcement groups around the country raised roughly \$750,000 in tips and tax-deductible donations during Tip-A-Cop events.

Sgt. Dan Mastro heard about the Tip-A-Cop program in 1995, and immediately decided to participate—and persuade as many of his colleagues as possible to do the same. The West Valley Division's Tip-A-Cop activities got off to a modest start—just 10 officers participated in the event's first year—but has grown yearly, doubling the amount of money raised each year.

"We began in 1995, and raised about \$1,500," Sgt. Mastro said. "But we



Keeping watch over a rare limited-edition Beany Baby are (left to right) Tri-Valley Special Olympics Area Director Lynn Westlund, SLO Steve Kegley, Ofc. Monica Chavez, Ofc. Larry Monte and Ofc. Susana Calderon.

learned a lot, and raised \$3,600 in '96. Last year, we nearly doubled our success again, and raised \$5,700 in one day!"

Though diners were encouraged to tip the cops for their hard work, funds were also raised through the sale of raffle tickets, which offered diners the chance to win a special collector's edition "Beany Baby" created in remembrance of Princess Diana.

The purple bear is adorned with a pink rose, and was donated by local businesswoman Alice Burdick of the Country Attic. Only 200 of the special edition stuffed toys exist, and collectors

Continued on page 49

DIVISIONAL REPORTER

Central Traffic Division



by Sal Flamenco
Central Traffic Division

Central Traffic Division's Annual Car Show for 1997 brought us over \$18,000, which was turned over to the Los Angeles Children's Hospital



It's just another hard working day at CTD. Seated (from left to right) are traffic collision officers Christ Rodriguez #32309, Alex Alvarez #32915 and motor officer Sal Flamenco #22822... O.K. guys, back to work now...

tal for the Bone Marrow Unit.

As you know, CTD adopted the Bone Marrow Unit back in 1996 and that same year created the CTD Annual Car Show. The first car show was a great success, providing CTD with approximately \$10,000 in profits, which were all turned over to the Children's Hospital Bone Marrow Unit at a Christmas party given to the children at the hospital.

Since the creation of this event, CTD has worked hand in hand with the hospital staff at the Bone Marrow Unit and provided the hospital with monies and other items.

This year Sgt. Tom Hatter of CTD was able to gather approximately \$1,000 worth of good useable clothes in various sizes which were given to the hospital for distribution to the children at the Bone Marrow Unit and their families.

Since the adoption of the Bone Marrow Unit, Sgt. Tom Hatter and several officers at CTD have given

up a lot of their valuable time in order for these children and their families to enjoy a little more of life.

I would like to give thanks to all the CTD personnel who have assisted so far in this task and remember, each year our car show

gets bigger and better and we can use all the help we can get. So again don't forget the next show date for 1998, which will be Saturday, August 23, 1998 at the Police Academy.

CTD Helps March of Dimes

On Saturday, April 25, 1998, the March of Dimes is going to hold their annual walkathon. This activity will assist in raising money for the prevention of birth defects through research.

Det.-3 Tia Morris from CTD Detectives is CTD's March of Dimes coordinator and she's signing up everybody that would like to participate and collecting their donations. Remember, it's great fun to take a walk, maybe with your loved ones, but, of course, you'll have many of your CTD friends there so please keep that date open and remember that it's for a worthwhile cause. So I would like to see as many CTD personnel out as possible.

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A special thanks to all of you for being there during my family's time of need.

--- Cindy

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ble. Contact Tia Morris at CTD, 485-3111, ASAP.

Well we at CTD welcome all our new members, and we will miss all our departing friends. Everybody take care and keep in touch.



Captain O'Connell from CTD, giving Senior Motor Officer P-II+2 Carl Rowles #12798 his 22 year safe riding pin award. Carl is the senior motor officer at CTD... Congratulations Carl, good riding...

CTD would like to say hello to the arriving troops: Sgt. I Ray Ballesteros, #22307, returns to CTD after doing his tour of duty in Hollywood Division. Welcome back home Ray. Sgt. I C. Frank, #24258, comes to us from North Hollywood Patrol Division and now wants to try out the traffic side. Sgt. I F. Hurtado, #21526, comes here from Wilshire Division. Well sergeant, get ready for all those T/C reports. P-2 M. Barocio, #32049, leaves Hollywood Division for

a traffic spot at CTD. Get your traffic manual ready.

Leaving CTD are the following: Motor Officer P-2+2, #22142, makes Detective and leaves his motor behind to work 77th Division. Sgt. I C. Waters, #26246, leaves us for West L.A. Division. P-2 Medina, #32106, goes to 77th Division also to fight crime, and no more T/C reports. P-2 Vanhorn, #32040, is going to 77th Division to take care of Officer Medina.

League Delegates



Motor officer PII+2 Steve Johnson, receiving a farewell gift from CTD's Captain O'Connell. Steve transferred to VTD so he can enjoy the heat on his motor this summer.

Central Traffic Division's delegates include Sal Flamenco, Mike Flynn and Bob Hinshaw.

Central Traffic has two non-League members.

*

More Divisional Reporter on next page

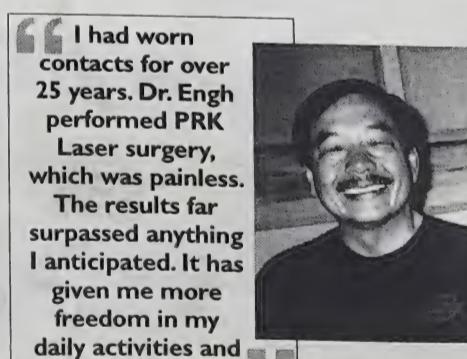
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DIVISIONAL REPORTER

Rampage

by George S. Brietigam III
Rampart Division

At-A-Boy

On February 6, 1998, at 1100 hours, Officers **George Brietigam** and **Catherine Sobieski** were en route to Rampart Area after booking a narcotics suspect at Jail Division. The officers were westbound on 5th Street approaching Broadway when they observed an armed robbery in progress.



Officer Julio Munoz, "This is not a personal call."

gress. The suspect, wearing a ski mask, was holding a butcher knife against the victim's throat with his left hand. The victim's back was pinned against a van parked on 5th Street. The suspect was

punching the victim's stomach and rummaging through the victim's pockets.

The officers tactically deployed on the suspect and, taking a position of advantage, ordered the suspect into the felony prone. The suspect, a veteran street predator with three prior robbery convictions, dropped the knife and was taken into custody without incident. The suspect later pled guilty to ADW and was sent back to prison (see ya in 20 to life).

On February 11, 1998, at 1200 hours, Officer **Julian Muñoz** and **Brad Schumacher** were on patrol when they received an "ADW" call. The suspect attacked the victim with a large kitchen knife. The suspect kidnapped the victim, and repeatedly raped her for two weeks before attempting to silence her permanently. The victim, bleeding and traumatized, managed to escape. She made it to a phone and called the police. The victim advised the officers that the suspect frequents the Rampart area, and provided a detailed description of the suspect. In an era when most are content with simply completing a report, Officers Muñoz and Schumacher began the hunt for the violent street



predator. They began their follow-up with an extensive, systematic search for the suspect. Their tenacity eventually paid off when they located the suspect on Beacon Avenue, near 8th Street. Using outstanding street tactics, the officers apprehended the suspect without incident.

C-Ya!

Rampart regrets to announce the departure of Captain III **Nick Saleos** to SID, Sgt. **Robert Chacon** to JD-MET, P-3 **John Bertino** to Metro, P-2 **Eric Bixler** to Foothill, P-2 **Eliana Tapia** to HWD, P-2 **Julio Garcia** and P-2 **Jonathan Kirkpatrick** to NHWD and P-2 **William Ferguson** to Southwest. Good luck with your new assignments.

Climbers!

Congratulations are due **Craig Adams** and **Lino Santana** on their promotions to P-3 (Field Training Officer).

Fresh Meat!

Rampart welcomes Captain III **Dave Smith** from CTD, Sgt. **L. Kerchenske** from ND, P-3 **R. Calderon** from HWD, P-2 **S. Meagher** and P-2 **V. Nguyen** from PAC, P-2 **M. Maldonado**, P-2 **C. Marquez** and P-2 **H. Vantwist** from S/E, P-2 **M. Buchanan** from S/W, P-2 **T. Patino** from VNYS, and P-2 **J. Freeman** from WVAL. Rampart also welcomes new probationer P-1 **N. Magpoc** from the Academy.

Rampart's League Delegates

Rampart's delegates include **George Brietigam**, **Leonard Miller**, **Paul Morgan**, **Shannon Paulson**, **Bob Von Voight** and **Dori Wolfenstein**. Rampart has zero non-League members.

*

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• **JAY SOARES, Police Officer**

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SPORTS BEAT



Sports Beat is a regular feature of the Thin Blue Line. Deadline information can be found under 'Editorial Policies' on Page 2 of this issue or you can call the Sports Beat Info Line at (213) 223-WINS.

April Sports Roundup

Here Piggie, Piggie, Piggie...

If your station is looking at feasting on some spare ribs, bacon, ham hocks, and chitlins (read that: the 77th Street Power Pigs), applications are now available for the upcoming May 15 Intradepartmental Bench Press competition at the Academy Gym. Lt. Paul von Lutzow's porcines have dominated LAPD competition in the last four contests over the past two years, and have been able to trample their opponents like sows running to the slop.

A maximum of 40 lifters can represent their unit/station in competition, so if your commanding officer has been dreaming of sucking pig on a spit, be sure your comrades get their applications in as soon as possible.

For more info, call the LAPD Athletic Office at (213) 222-4601.

★ ★ ★

20th Annual Memorial Relay Coming May 30

Entry forms are now available for the 20th Annual Memorial Relay, which returns to Dockweiler Beach in Playa del Rey on Saturday, May 30. As usual the race will include a one-mile fun run for kids age 12 and under, a 5K individual race, and a five-person 25K team relay race. In addition, all runners qualify for a drawing that will be held for numerous prizes (which in the past have included stereos, bicycles, certificates of deposit, autographed sports memorabilia, and similar items).

Race Coordinator Rick Massa and Athletic Department Secretary Debbie Moeller are hard at work putting the finishing touches, and any volunteers are welcome to assist in their

stand; concluding Sunday with 100 skeet, 100-pr doubles trap, and 25 duck tower. Open to all sworn, retired and reserve police/fire personnel, as well as non-police/fire shooters, medals will be awarded in each event and high overall, with separate classes for police/fire and non-police/fire shooters.

A barbecue and raffle will be held on Saturday following the day's events. ATA, NSSA, and NSCA rules will apply for the competition. Entry fee for the competition is only \$35 (not including targets). For more details or entry forms, contact John Herkowitz at (626) 579-5201.

★ ★ ★

Slo-Pitch Season Now Underway

Sixteen teams competed in a pre-season warm-up tournament on Wednesday, March 25, in anticipation of the start of league play on Tuesday, April 7. At press time the following units had signed up to field teams in the hopes of knocking Van Nuys Division off Cloud Nine following their defeat of perennial LAPD Champion Rampart in 1997 (coach in parenthesis):

Central (Sam Gong), Central Traffic (Scott Koegel), Detective Services (Keith Anderson), Devonshire (Ernie Fischer), Foothill (Julian Almaraz), Harbor (Richard Baeza), Harbor (Gerald Legaspi), Hollenbeck (Danny Roman), Hollywood (Helen Lopez), Hollywood (Randy Litton), Internal Affairs (Michael Avalos), Legal Affairs (Craig Bushey), Narcotics (Gary Lopez), Newton (Terry Barclay), Northeast (John Marroquin), Northeast (David Trujillo), North Hollywood (Roger Morales), North Hollywood (Richard Perez), Pacific (Jerry Bautista), Rampart (Todd Cataldi), Rampart (Samuel Martin), Robbery Homicide (Mike Buttitta), 77th Street (Paul Lopez), Southeast (Barto Landsman), Southwest Dets. (Rick Record), South Bureau Crash/Homicide (Dan Ornelas), South Traffic (Sandy Kim), Transit Group (Ken Hillman), Transit Group (Todd Waymire), Van Nuys (Bob

Rose), West Valley (Ray Lombardo) and Wilshire (Miguel Lopez).

Updated game schedules and changes are available on a 24-hour basis by calling the Sports Beat Info Line at (213)-WINS.

★ ★ ★

Take Me Out to the Ball Game...

Speaking of bats, bases, gloves and the like, LAPRAAC has obtained a block of seats in the reserved section (between the dugouts) for a number of Dodger games this season. Tickets are available for \$12 each in the LAPRAAC Administrative Office at the Academy and must be purchased five days prior to game date. To check availability, call Lisa or Kimberly at (213) 221-5222. Currently available (all games 7:05 p.m. unless noted otherwise):

Tues. 4/7, 1:05 p.m. (opening day) and Thurs. 4/9, Diamond Backs; Sat. 4/11, Astros; Fri. 4/24, Cubs; Mon. 4/27, Brewers; Tues. 5/12, Phillies; Thurs. 5/28, Reds; Thurs. 6/4 4:35 p.m., Cardinals; Tues. 6/9, Oakland Athletics; Fri. 6/12, Rockies; Wed. 6/24, 7:35 p.m., Angels; Fri. 6/26, and Sun. 6/28, Pirates.

*



More Sports Beat on next page

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SPORTS BEAT



Scorpion Soccer Tournament

by Jose De Leon

Imagine for a moment a soccer tournament where youth and adult teams from the community come face to face with law enforcement officers. For the last two years, during the months of June and July, it has been possible. The encounters were of a friendly nature allowing officers time to put their police image aside and dress in shorts and jerseys to meet the challenge.

Both previous tournaments were significantly important since they were organized with the vision of

pated with their teams, making this idea a successful event. I am also very pleased with the outcome of both tournaments and to have received the support of many community leaders. Although the work was hard, it was well worth it and satisfying.

Both tournaments were self supported and they did not cost LAPD or the city money. However, the positive image created definitely benefits all of us in LAPD. Several of the participating young men and adults expressed a sincere desire to



improving relations between the community and LAPD. Furthermore, and equally important was the good impression the officers left on the participating young men and adults. The participating community teams were very enthusiastic to interact with the officers by playing a sport they have in common.

My name is Jose M. De Leon, and I am a detective with LAPD. On or about January of 1995, while thinking of the difficult times LAPD had recently faced in regaining the community support, it occurred to me that by interacting officers and community members as previously stated, was one way of achieving the department's goal. With this idea in mind, I approached both of our department soccer team members and requested their participation in both tournaments. I am very grateful to all the participating officers, who while off duty partici-

join the LAPD family as explorers or police officers in the near future.

The third annual tournament is about to start, and it looks more challenging and more interesting than the previous two. In addition to our LAPD teams, we now have the participation of LASO women and men teams and the participation of both city and county fire department teams. As you can see, this tournament has brought out the interest of other agencies. Thus, making it a greater experience in the minds of the participants, who some day may be interested in a career as police officers or firemen.

It has been made very clear to all participating members that this is not an LAPD sponsored, approved, or financially supported event. Furthermore, it has been made very clear that I do not represent LAPD when organizing or supervising this event. Even with this knowl-

edge, the participating members are interested in continuing with their participation, and they have done so in the last two events. This interest assures me that the participants are also interested in interacting with law enforcement officers, and with our new addition, firemen.

My dream is that someday this event reaches the interest of city officials and LAPD high-ranking officers who should consider that projects like this event are not costly but very effective.

In closing I would like to briefly point out the effectiveness a project like this could achieve. For example, if this event was implemented citywide with all the geographical patrol divisions having a representing team, we would have approximately 360 young men playing a sport they like and out of the streets.

The upcoming tournament is scheduled to start on May 16, 1998 and end on August 8, 1998. The locations of the games are not confirmed at this time. For further information, please call detective Jose M. De Leon at 213-968-9775.



3rd Annual Scorpion Soccer Tournament

May 16, 1998 - August 1, 1998

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Los Angeles, California

Contact: Jose De Leon, Tournament Director, (213) 968-9775

*

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Field Wide Open for 14th Annual Baker to Vegas Relay, April 25-26

This year's Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay trophy will be up for grabs as Air Support/Training Division, winner the last two years, will not field a team in the open division. The decision for this year's team to run in the 800 Category (total age of all 20 runners is 800 years or more) leaves the field wide open for last year's also-rans to set their sights on becoming the new king of the hill.

While the top team in the 800 Category has historically finished in the top 5-10 overall, no 800 team has ever won the race outright. ASD/Training will face a tough time challenging LASD's Special Enforcement Bureau, which has dominated that category since it was created.

Among the over 200 teams (a new record) that will answer the starter's gun on Saturday, April 25, along a lonely stretch of State Route 127 some 18 miles outside of the tiny desert hamlet of Baker, LAPD Metro Division, San Diego PD, Anaheim PD, the FBI's Los Angeles Office, and the dreaded LASD Central Jail Sherminators are all on the short list of favorites to win this year's race (CJ last won in 1995, FBI-LA in 1991).

Should Metrowin, it would be the first time since the late '80s that different teams from the same department have won back-to-back races (ASD/Training, Hollenbeck, and Parker Center in 1987-88-89).

Thirty-four LAPD teams and 32 LASD teams have entered the race, which is split into 10 categories: open (no restrictions), mixed (five or more females), women, 800 (total age of team is 800 years or more), 300 (agencies with 151-300 sworn), F300 (federal agencies), 150 (agencies with 100-150 sworn), 99 (agencies with 99 or fewer sworn), stations, and invitational (can include non-sworn personnel). Representing Chief Bernie Parks' finest are teams from ASD/Training, Central/Central Traffic, Communications, DARE, Devonshire, Foothill, Harbor, Hollenbeck, Hollywood, Intelligence, Internal Affairs (2), Metro (2), Narcotics, Newton, Northeast, North Hollywood, Pacific/West Traffic, Parker Center, Rampart, Reserves, Retired, 77th Street, South Traffic, Southeast, Southwest, Transit Group, Valley Traffic, Van Nuys, West L.A., West Valley, Wilshire, and a women's team.

Since its inception in 1985, when Chuck Foote and Larry Moore charted a course for 17 teams to race in the desert heat and moun-

tain cold, the race has grown geometrically to where it has become one of the largest relays in the world. This year's race features, for the first time ever, a team composed of runners representing police departments in Great Britain. Traveling not quite so far, but from outside the California/Nevada area, teams from U.S. Customs El Paso (Texas), the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Arizona Attorney General's Office, Salt Lake City (Utah) PD, FBI Salt Lake City, and Eugene (Oregon) PD, and two teams representing Dallas (Texas) PD and Calgary (Canada) PD. The Invitational Category will include a team representing the United States Marine Corps.

Close to 10,000 participants (including support personnel) will descend upon the communities of Baker (home of the "Bun Boy"), Shoshone (only gas and restrooms for 50 miles in either direction), Pahrump (where ladies of the night work legally), and Las Vegas under weather conditions that can range from searing heat to driving rain, fierce winds to snow (the 1987 race ended early due to heavy snowfall). Baker and Shoshone (combined population of less than 500 -- unless you count all the dogs and cats) are virtually overrun by hordes in tank tops and shorts, who spend tens of thousands of dollars on gas, food, lodgings and supplies. For residents of these two tiny desert pit stops, the Challenge Cup Relay is the equivalent to their Super Bowl.

Runners will tackle a route that, on its own, is something to marvel. Starting out in the middle of nowhere on Highway 127 they face an unforgiving course: 120 miles of shoulder and asphalt, undulating up and down the dunes like a roller coaster until Shoshone (don't blink or you'll miss it), then literally straight up the mountains into Pahrump. Then, after a brief stretch of flat running, the billygoats take charge for a climb to over 7,000 foot elevation at Mountain Springs Summit. The survivors descend 3,500 feet, braving gravity, dark windy mountain roads with speeding traffic and railroad crossings, to the flashing neon of the Las Vegas Strip. This year competitors will sprint towards the bright lights of what has become the most fabulous four corners in the city, Tropicana Avenue and Las Vegas Boulevard, and the finish line at the Tropicana Hotel.

Post-race festivities take place Sunday afternoon, April 26, and will serve as the inaugural event for the MGM Grand's new ballroom, with seating for over 5,000 people and standing room for another 3,000. If you can't make the race, a full line of Challenge Cup T-shirts, caps, jackets and other souvenirs is now available at the Academy and RTC stores.

We'll have complete results, along with photos and a wrap-up article, in the June issue of *The Thin Blue Line*.

*

Post-Race Parties

Participants in this year's Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay will have two official post-race parties on Sunday night, April 26, for their celebrating and decompressing pleasure. Both parties feature live bands and will have food and beverage service available. Frequent free transportation will be provided between both celebrations.

Rock 'N Roll Party
at "The Beach"
365 Convention Center Drive

Country/Western Party
at "The Joint"
Hard Rock Hotel, 4455 Paradise Road

Parties start at 7:30pm and last until the final reveler has bitten the dust. Cost had not been set at our press deadline, but it will include admission to both parties. Tickets available at Baker High School on Saturday, April 25, the Awards Ceremony (MGM Grand Hotel Ballroom) on Sunday, April 26, and other locations to be announced. For more info on ticket price and availability call Debbie Moeller in the Athletic Office at (213) 222-4601.



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SPORTS BEAT



Who Will Claim The National Football Championship?

(The National Public Safety Football League)

by F. Joe Pyland

This spring 14 police or fire department football teams will knock heads sharing one common goal -- the chance to play and claim victory in the first National Public Safety Football Championship. The championship will be played in Washington, D.C. on Friday, May 15, 1998 as a featured event of National Law Enforcement Memorial Week.

The pre-season favorite is the New York P.D. "Finest" unbeaten in three years. The "finest" coached by Pete Moog are led by All-American QB Paul Costa and the defense again will be anchored by All-American Lineman Jim Kelleher.

The Los Angeles Fire "Heat" is favored in the West Division. The wide open "Heat" are led by QB Mark Tolbert who teams up with All-American wide receiver Frank Lewis. The "Heat" will play crosstown rival the "Centurions" of LAPD in April. This game and head to head matchups with the Orange County "Lawmen" should determine the playoffs. The Los Angeles "Centurions" defense is led by All-Americans David Bambriek and Keith Wiggins. The West Coast offense is triggered by QB Darren Upstill, whose favorite target is Brian Danskin.

The number one team in the lone star state are the Houston P.D. "Gunners." The "Gunners" ground attack is led by All-American Cliff Winston who barrels through holes created by linemen Gary Harrison and Ken Seymour. The "Gunners" big showdown is in April against the San Diego Sheriff's "Posse." The minister of "posse" defense is linebacker Scott Holslag. The "Posse" defen-

sive wall is anchored by Ropati Pisia.

The Florida showdown in April is the United Tampa "Guardians" and the Palm Beach "Bandits." The United Tampa team boast All-American linebacker Bill Traynham and defensive lineman Greg Campion. The "Bandits" count on RB Mike Wallace and TE Mike Anderson to lead the attack.

The Pre-Season Top Ten Public Safety Teams in The Nation Are:

1. New York P.D. "Finest"
2. Los Angeles Fire "Heat"
3. **Los Angeles P.D. "Centurions"**
4. Fire Dept. New York "Bravest"
5. Houston P.D. "Gunners"
6. Palm Beach (Fla.) "Bandits"
7. San Diego Sheriff "Posse"
8. Orange County (Calif.) "Lawmen"
9. United Tampa "Guardians"
10. New York Corrections "Boldest"

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L.A.P.D. CENTURIONS 1998 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

February 14, 1998
LA Centurions - 46
WASCO "Hounds" - 13

March 8, 1998
LA Centurions - 21
Panthers - 6

March 21, 1998
LA Centurions - 36
Orange County "Lawmen" - 0

March 28, 1998
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1:00 pm kick-off

April 18, 1998
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1:00 pm kick-off

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"The LAPD Centurions play football for kids!"



Photo by Dennis P. Zine

Parker Center Detectives "woofin' down" the chow at Centurion fund raiser for Blind Children's Center.



Photo by Dennis P. Zine

The Centurion football players and cheerleaders at their Hotlink BBQ at Parker Center.

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Basketball Finals

Five in a Row for Parker Center

In one of the most exciting finishes in recent history, Coach Eric Moore's Parker Center roundballers, forced to the wall by a strong 77th Street squad, snatched victory out of the hands of defeat to win their fifth consecutive Captain Al Nelson Tournament and remain the Department champion.

Thrice defeated in Bill Ellis League play, the Admins beat West Valley and Southwest to set up their first encounter with the



Kneeling (left to right): B. Halcromb, J. Moore and C. Costley. Standing (left to right): T. McGrath, V. Drake, E. Moore and M. Hernandez.

Double Sevens, handing them their first defeat of the year, 58-57, and knocking them into the loser's bracket. 77th Street, however, rose to the occasion, easily handling DARE, 68-56 to set up a rematch with Parker Center.

Playing with everything to gain and nothing to lose (having fallen once in the double elimination tournament), the Streeters pounded Parker Center, 68-52, setting up a winner-take-all no-

holds-barred battle-to-the-finish for the LAPD crown.

But it was not to be for the Double Sevens...as the Admins, having taken it on the chin, bounced back to win a 70-67 squeaker for their fifth straight title. Congratulations to the Parker Center team, consisting of Venson Drake, Milton Hernandez, Clarence Metcalfe, Greg Montgomery, Eric Moore, and James Moore.

Over in the Danny Roberts League Tournament the initial problem was seeding the teams (Newton, Metro and Transit Group all finished 6-4 in league play, Rampart, Northeast and Devonshire all finished 4-6). Once that was sorted out it was a battle to the wire between the two top seeds, Metro (looking for its third consecutive title) and Newton.

Metro took the upper hand, beating Transit Group and then overpowering Newton 55-32 (knocking them into the losers bracket). The Isaacs bounced back to beat Devonshire for the honor of another showdown, but the magic stopped there...as Metro again trounced Newton, 59-43, for its third consecutive tournament championship.

Van Nuys, unsullied in league play, had better luck in this year's Sterling Gordon League Tournament. In 1997, after a lackluster 6-4 league record, they cold-cocked undefeated Foothill to get into the final game before the Osborne Street Gang wreaked their revenge.

This time the Flatlanders took no prisoners, sweeping the tournament with wins over Hollywood, Harbor, Internal Affairs and Foothill to get once again into the championship round...then taking a close 46-40 decision over Southeast in the title game.

ATTENTION ALL SHOOTERS!

The Los Angeles Police Shooting Sports Association (LAPSSA) is looking for any active Reserve or retired Los Angeles Police Officer who is interested in competitive shooting sports.

LAPSSA consists of an action shooting group and a Practical Police Combat group.

In the Action Shooting Division shooters must utilize all of their firearms skills to balance speed and accuracy. In other words, the fastest shooter with the best hits wins. There are various types of matches involving pistols, rifles, and shotguns. The matches are shot using paper and/or steel targets on stationary and/or running courses.

LAPSSA members are racking up the wins in events such as PPC Regional, National and World Championships, NRA Distinguished, Soldier of Fortune, IPSC, Steel Challenge, and the Police Summer Games. But LAPSSA is not only just for top ranking shooters. LAPSSA is for anyone interested in improving their shooting skills and enhancing their street survivability. Competitive shooting gives officers a place to enhance and test their shooting skills in a safe, friendly, and fun atmosphere. You will gain the confidence and skills in a safe, friendly, and fun atmosphere. You will gain the confidence and skills needed not only for competition but for street survival!

The LAPSSA Action Pistol Group will be holding its next meeting on April 25, 1998 at the Police Academy (Bonus Range).

For more information, contact: Goldberg (pager) - 805-518-8195 or Parmelee (pager) - 818-604-0104.

The LAPSSA is a newly formed organization open to all Los Angeles Police Department officers and dedicated to improving officer survival skills while having fun through competitive shooting sports. If you have an interest in competitive shooting or at least would like to know what is available, please attend our initial pre-season meeting.

We have shooters of all skill levels in the most popular shooting disciplines: practical police combat, I.P.S.C., action, I.D.P.A., 3-gun, and rifle. There are also members who are world class shooters in these competitions and are willing to help you get started. There is no cost to join our association and all you need to compete in most of these shooting disciplines is your duty gun and gear.

We need new members. All we ask is that you are safe, courteous, and want to have fun.

The 1998 season is starting, don't wait! If you are interested in P.P.C., contact Bob Barnes at (909) 597-8887 or attend the LAPSSA meeting on April 25, 1998 in Room 1B at the Police Academy.

*

More Sports Beat on next page

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SPORTS BEAT



L.A. Bullets Ice Hockey

by Tom Wich,
RHD

The Bullets ended the month of January on a high note. The team traveled to the Great Western Forum to take on the L.A. City/L.A. County Fire Department's elite hockey team for the first annual Protectors Cup game sponsored by the Los Angeles Kings. Prior to the game police officers and firemen representing agencies from throughout L.A. County took part in a broomball game. The police officers received excellent goaltending from Deputy Chief Gascon who backstopped the team to a 1-0 victory. Deputy Chief Gascon then coached the Bullets to a hard fought 4-2 victory over the firemen. The game was tied 2-2 going into the third period when the Bullets picked up the intensity and were able to score two goals and hang on for the win. Newly selected Metro Officer Jeff Wenninger was awarded the MVP of the game. The Bullets want to thank everyone for attending the game which helped

raise money for the Police Memorial fund.

The Bullets hosted the Rich Hammack Memorial Tournament over Presidents Day weekend (2-12-2-16). The Bullets played officers from Boston, Massachusetts and Phoenix, Arizona. Unfortunately the Bullets lost to Boston 10-5. Several of the Bullets play-

missing five players but were able to score seven goals in the third period forcing the game to go into overtime. The Bullets eventually lost 3-2 in a shootout. This was the first time in eight years that the Bullets have lost to Phoenix. There were several other teams representing departments from throughout Southern California



1998 Protectors Cup Champs - LAPD / LASD Bullets

ers had to work (I know, no excuses) so we had to borrow players from the Phoenix team. Boston also beat Phoenix and took first place in the division. Perhaps the best game of the weekend took place between the Bullets and Phoenix for second place on Monday morning. The Bullets were

in the Intermediate Division. Officers from the Long Beach Police Department were the winners of this division. The Bullets would like to thank all the fans that came out and supported the tournament.

The end of the season is only a couple months away and we are now planning for next season. The

Bullets No. 1 team is looking for 3-4 new players who have the ability to play in the Advanced Division. Most players at this level have major college or semi-pro experience. If you have the desire to play at this level, please contact Tom Wich at RHD/Bank Squad 485-0780 or Matt Jaroszak at ASD 485-2600. We are also planning on bringing back the Bullets No. 2 team which is at the Intermediate level. If you would like to try out for the team, contact Denie Gilbert at the Bomb Squad 485-7474. Both teams will play their games at the Pickwick Ice Rink in Burbank.

The Bullets are planning on playing in a police tournament in Boston, Mass. in November '98, the International Police Olympic Winter Games in February '99 and hosting the Hammack Tournament in March '99. If you would like to play next year, contact one of the above mentioned officers. If you're a beginner and want to play next season, you can contact Tom Wich at RHD or Lori Real at West Traffic Division 310-202-4545. See you at the rink.

The L.A. Bullets appreciate the support of the Los Angeles Police Protective League and the Association of Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs.

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RETIREMENT ASSOCIATIONS & NOTICES

The Retirement Associations & Notices is a regular feature of the Thin Blue Line. Retirees are encouraged to submit articles for publication. Deadline information can be found under 'Editorial Policies' on Page 2 of this issue.

RETIREMENT CORNER

April, 1998

Rank/Name/Serial No./Last Assigned To	#Years
LT II George R. "Lash" La Rue 10450 North Hollywood	39
DET II Frank "Jay" Romaine 12578 RHD	33
DET III Donald R. Ferrell 13217 Rampart	30
P III Ralph (Roger) Ruggiero 13435 Devonshire	30
DET III Antonio "Tony" Diaz 13518 RHD	30
DET III Richard E. Crottsley 13763 RHD	30
P II+2 Charles E. Lovold 13785 West Traffic	30
DET III Michael F. Watson 14679 RHD	30
DET III Norman A. Jackson 15526 RHD	29
LT II Joseph J. Garcia 16261 Foothill Detectives	28
DET I Thomas R. Vincello 16391 Southeast	28
DET I Edward T. Harrell 17617 Narcotics	26
DET III Thomas P. Gattegno 17858 RHD	26
LT II Patrick J. Conmey 17943 RHD	25

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Conejo Blue Line Association

by Cliff Hodge

Greetings, once again, from the Conejo Blue Line Association (COBLA).

COBLA has been notified by our brother Blue Line association, SABLA, that their barbecue planned for May 8 has been cancelled, so for you alert readers who read our last article which mentioned joining them for their BBQ, you can disregard.

Our spring lunch exceeded all expectations. Forty-seven members showed up at the Plug Nickel to hear Captain **William O. Gartland**, RHD, discuss the North Hollywood shooting. Gartland was his usual entertaining self. The food was excellent and one lucky winner walked away with \$51 from the 50/50 drawing. All those in attendance, as well as the speaker, enjoyed interacting and seeing old friends and comrades. Stay tuned for the next event which should be sometime this summer. It will be publicized in this article and through a special mailing to COBLA members.

For those who are not aware, the Conejo Blue Line Association was formed in 1997 to provide an occasional social and informative meeting for the many retirees that live north of the San Fernando Valley. So as to not conflict with existing groups, such as the Valley Retired Blues, which meets monthly at The Lamplighter, COBLA will not be doing something on a regular monthly basis. Rather, COBLA will have occasional "special upscale" events. Many of our attendees participate in other organizations.

All that is required to be a member of COBLA, and thus be placed on the mailing list, is to be an honorably retired or active LAPD officer who has graduated from the LAPD Academy, and to pay \$5 as needed to offset mailing expenses, etc. Anyone interested in affiliating with COBLA should contact **J. R. Schiller** at (818) 706-0217. For you Internet buffs, you can E-mail me at Cliff7649@aol.com.

Till next time, keep in mind: *Success is a journey, not a destination.*

More Retirement Association on next page

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RETIREMENT ASSOCIATIONS & NOTICES

Valley Retired Blues

by Clinton O. Erickson

NOTE -- WE WILL BE MEETING AROUND 9:30 A.M. for our next luncheon on April 15th at "The Lamplighter" restaurant, located on the corner of DeSoto Avenue and Nordhoff Street, in the bar lounge. NO ADVANCE RESERVATIONS. Food: breakfasts, salads, soups, or sandwiches may be ordered. Early birds may come in anytime after 9:00 a.m.

We had 41 at the February 18th meeting with no new attendees. The attendees were **John Becker** (5059), **Barney Boronich** (3861), **Bob Davidson** (3398), **Frances Davidson**, **Ted Debs** (6808), **Gene Dillon** (3411), **Emmet Drennen** (3279), **Ed Elliott** (4703), **H. (Curly) Elliott** (4534), **Ray Elmer** (5607), **Don Erath** (5244), **Clinton Erickson** (5608), **Bob Fritz** (4583), **Robert Gibson** (4585), **Jack Halstead**, **Mel Harner** (4501), **Morrie Henkin** (5247), **Flo Holland**, **Lou Holland** (5354), **Dan Jaffee** (6242), **Mike Jauregui** (12143), **John Kepke** (4603), **Tom Lindholm** (4734), **Don Lyon** (6575), **Royal MacGregor** (5004), **Lou Mellott** (4037), **Boris Meneghelli** (3522), **Don Minkus** (5948), **Paul Nicholas** (4047), **Don Noeth** (6595), **Leonard Reafleeng** (5666), **Ben Reineke** (3190), **Joyce Reineke**, **Stuart Stremsterfer** (4394), **Jim Swiston** (4654), **Dick Thomas** (6289), **Mel Tousseau** (3270), **Jim Trax** (6185), **Earl Wells** (6297), and **Marion Yates**.

Some of our attendees have expressed a desire to see the serial numbers of the officers attending. The missing numbers are spouses or friends of officers attending. Wives and friends are welcome to attend these gatherings.

Tim Yost has moved to Tacoma area of Washington. I do not have his address but have his phone number. After our meeting, I learned **Grace** and **Howard Barnes** moved to 10138 Concho Circle, Sun City, AZ 85373 the last part of January.

During our January meeting I was approached by an officer to have someone give a presentation to the group. **Jack Halstead** came to this February meeting at my request and gave us an update on legislative action pending or under consideration in congress relating to taxes, social security, Medicare, HMOs and a brief description of notifications affecting surviving spouses. Jack has a new edition (98) of his retirement planning book, which covers the above items. Jack has listed all of the necessary notifications (30-40) that have to be made for by survivors and check list of items to be sure all of our documents are current such as trusts, wills, stocks, bonds, etc. Contact Jack if you are interested in getting the book.

Dale Rickards has provided me with another story of his days on the department, which will bring back memories to those who used to work Van Nuys Division. "I had many watch commanders during the years I worked the horse detail. Many of them did not care for the horse detail. They wanted as many troops in radio cars as possible and that was the hang-up. The watch commander I had the most trouble with was a Lt. Shannon, a big, loud-mouthed Irishman. He was always on me for not writing enough traffic tickets. Also he would never give me any special days off such as birthday or my wedding anniversary that almost caused me a divorce on one occasion.

One Saturday I was working the horse detail and Cheyenne, my black cowboy friend, was riding with me. In that recess in my head called a brain I thought of a trick to play on the lieutenant. Close to end of watch I phoned the police station and set up a plan with a sergeant friend of mine. At 5:15 p.m. he was to get the lieutenant to go out to the police garage. At 5:00 p.m. I had pulled my truck and horse trailer by the police garage. I then put my friend Cheyenne in the tack compartment of my horse trailer. Now we were ready for the action to start. The lieutenant and the sergeant came walking by the horse trailer and Cheyenne shouted "Let me out of here you white mother humpers." Lt. Shannon looked like he had found a fifth ace in a

poker deck. He ran over to the horse trailer and opened the door. In a loud voice he asked Cheyenne what the hell he was doing in there. Cheyenne, with a pained look on his face, stated "That damn Rickards had arrested him three times and was going to make a slave out of him this time." Lt. Shannon's voice sounded like a slow moving windmill that sure needed grease. "That damn Rickards must be crazy." With this we all came out laughing. The lieutenant knew he had been had, but he took it real good. He even invited the three of us in for a cup of coffee.

If you need additional information about meetings, call me (Erickson) at (818) 340-2430.

*

PRESCOTT AREA BLUE LINE FOURTH ANNUAL BBQ AND ROUNDUP

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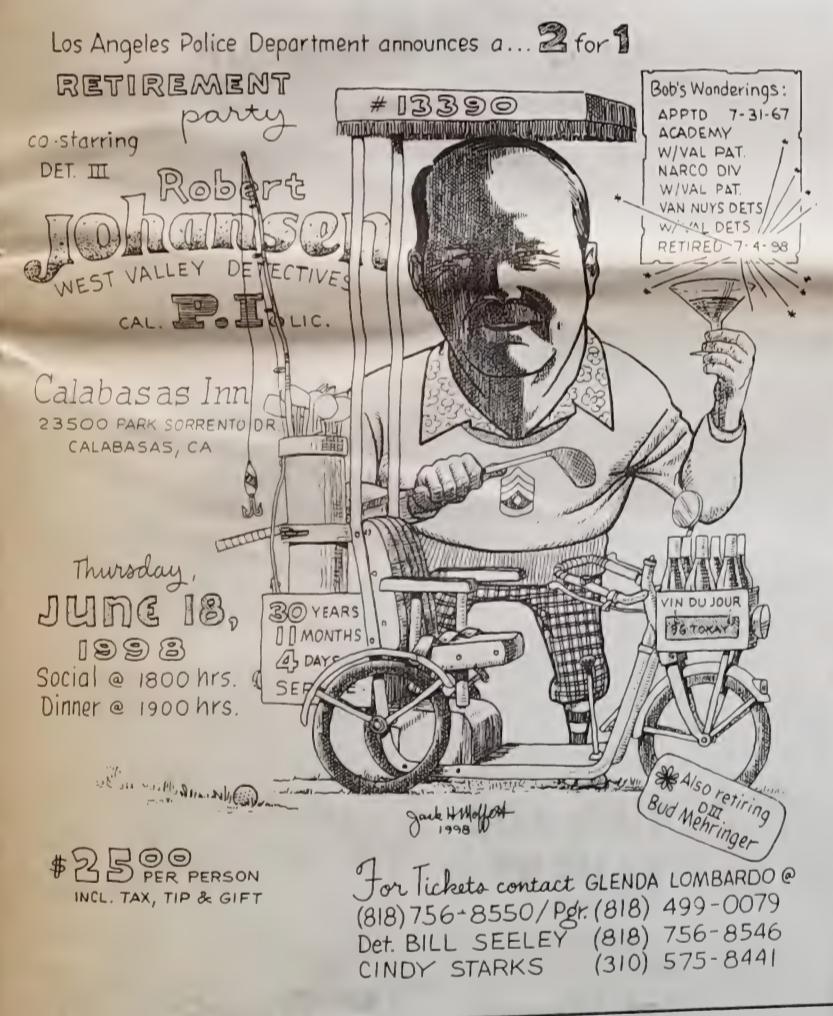
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Dates to Remember

April

April 1	L.A. Police Emerald Society	1900
April 8	Inland Blue Line Luncheon	1100
April 9	SABLA Luncheon	1130
April 11	LAPD Centurions vs. L.A. "Heat" at East L.A. College	1300
April 11	Family Support Group Car Wash and Bike Night Fundraiser	
April 16	Edward Harrell	1600
April 18	LAPD Centurions vs. South Bay "Knights" at Cerritos College	1300
April 25&26	Baker to Vegas Relay	
April 26	Pacific Northwest LAPD Retirees Champagne Brunch	1100

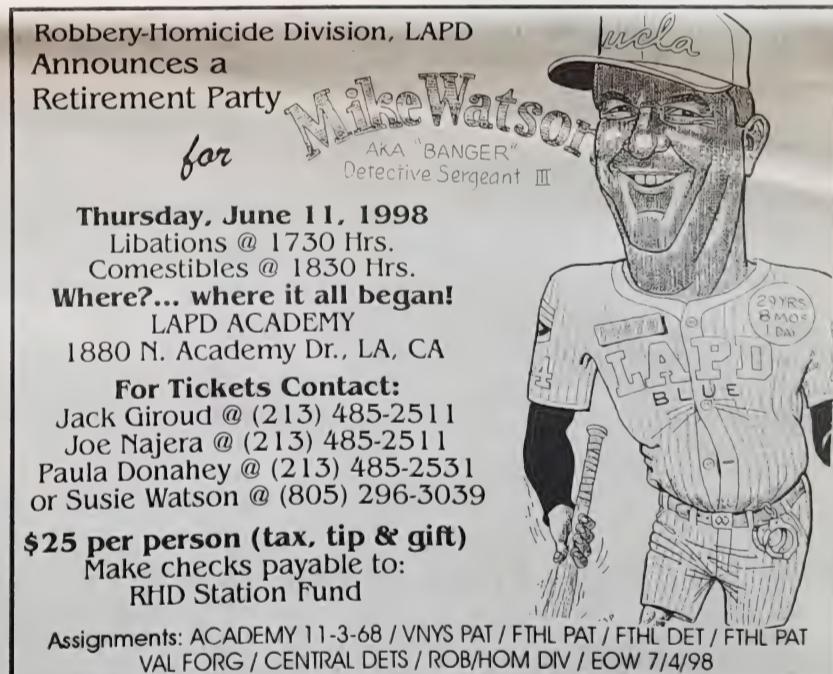
May

May 1	Billy Heinlein	1730
	<u>Police Memorial Ceremonies</u>	
May 7	Sacramento Vigil	1930
May 8	Sacramento Memorial Service	1030
May 11	L.A. Office F.B.I. Memorial Service	1030
May 11	P.A.B. Memorial Service	1300
May 13	LASD Academy Memorial Service	1030
May 13	Washington, D.C. Vigil	2000
May 15	Police Officer Memorial Day	
May 15	Washington, D.C. Memorial Service	
May 16	Police Memorial Celebrity Golf Tournament	
May 14	SABLA Luncheon	1130
May 16	LAPD Legendary Ladies Luncheon	1200
May 27	Reunion for Policemen & Policewomen Classes of May 1948	1800
May 30	20th Annual Memorial Relay Run	
May 31	Father Mike McCullough 25-Year Anniversary Luncheon	1400

June

June 6	Prescott Area Blue Line BBQ	1300
June 11	Mike Watson	1730
June 18	Bud Mehringer	1800
June 18	Robert Johansen	1800
June 21-27	1998 California Police Summer Games Contra Costa County	

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More Retirement Association on next page



RETIREMENT ASSOCIATIONS & NOTICES

Sacramento Area Blue Line Association

by Bernie Remas

It's April already! How time flies when you're having a good time! Got those taxes paid yet oldtimer? Oh, that's right, you're one of those retired LAPDers that get a refund, right? Well spend some of that money and come to a SABLA luncheon. For April we have scheduled a Lieutenant from nearby Folsom Prison. Folsom still houses some of the most serious "bad guys" that are in prison these days. He will give us the "inside" look at prison gangs. From his vantage point we should hear a different awareness of the problems that Correctional Officers deal with at Folsom. The lieutenant has some slides, so this should be an interesting presentation. C'mon by and have lunch with us at the Palomino!

Our February luncheon was a great one. Speaking of great ones, **Jack Halstead** flew into SABLAland to give our guys and gals the latest on retirement issues at



Jack Halstead (left) and Bernie Remas (right) at the Palomino.

the LAPD. What a guy!! I picked him up at the Sacramento Airport and after the usual greeting, et al. I asked Jack if he had ever been to a SABLA gathering in the past. He quickly said, "Sure Bernie. Four years ago. You picked me up at the airport that time too. Don't you remember?" Embarrassed and NOT remembering, I said "Oh sure Jack. How could I forget?" Now you know who has the best memory.

Jack is 87 years young. Did 32 years at LAPD. From 1941 to 1973! Didn't want to leave 'cause he was having so much fun!! Not so much of that attitude around these days, is there? Jack gave us his latest on LAPD pensions and did not show us his new book -- which many of us will want for our own copy. **A. J. Miles** of Yuba City took Jack back to the airport for his trip home to

the San Fernando Valley. Thanks Jack for coming here in all the cold and rain in February. It did rain!!

Also at that luncheon were **Bill & Muriel McMonagle** from Colfax -- who are always there -- **John & Fran Krasts** from Greenwood, **Al & Vicki Proudfit** from Middle-town, and **Bill & Ruby Wilhelm** from Nevada City. Those were the couples present. But there were others. **Chuck Ward** of Gold River, the "old" motor officer wanted to remind everyone that he retired in 1971. Let's see...that's 27 years you've been taking that monthly check to the bank now, right? WOW!! My old..."old" Lottery Agent buddy, **Dick Stevens**, of Rancho Murieta, was in a real funk 'cause all the rain in January and February was keeping him off the golf course out there. I know some of you would like to have his problem, right?? Next time you see Dick, offer him condolences!! Ho ho ho! His neighbor, **Gene DeCrona**, was there, but no reports of rain from him. But the sun always shines when Gene is around. Oh well!! **Ray Lauritzen**, SABLA Charter Member, is always there from Orangevale.

We also saw **Chuck Crawford** of Jackson, **Bob Tucker** all the way from Napa, the wine country, **Jim Van Riper** from nearby Carmichael, and **George Puddy** of Fair Oaks. Also **Ken Carlsted** from Auburn, who retired in '69, and definitely looks like he could do another 20! **Hal White** and our Treasurer, **Hoy Key**, from Sun City, Roseville were there. Which reminds me, Hoy puts out a terrific newsletter each month. But if you are not a dues paying member of SABLA, you don't get one! **Stan Kiessig**, a newcomer to SABLA, who is fast becoming a regular, was there. Where were you?? We missed you.

Two brand new members were brought into the SABLAfold. From way up the hill in Grass Valley came **Dick Taylor**. He retired from Motors in 1970! **Charlie Long** also joined from Roseville's Sun City. That confirms that there are now six of us living in Del Webb's piece of paradise. Hoy Key states that for this year we now have 72 paid up SABLA members. We have a few non-paid up members too. Welcome aboard you two. We're really glad to have you join us.

In February I took a trip to Southern California to see an old friend, **Ed Cull**. He's in another Del Webb

Sun City in Palm Desert. He invited a neighbor for cocktails that February weekend. Much to my surprise it was retired LAPD Capt. **Dick King** and his wife **Betty**! We had a great visit and dinner at the Lodge that night. Can that Dick tell some "war stories." Some I didn't even remember. Great memories Dick. Ed Cull's daughter is an LAPD regular -- Ruth Beadle. His other daughter, Sharon, is at City Hall West Covina. Both are beauties. Dick told me that he is a regular at Inland Blue Line led by my old partner from Hollywood Detective days -- **Loyd Yandle**! I usually get to see Loyd at the League's annual *Blue Line* awards dinner invitation, but I couldn't make it this year. Yeah, I know. Some of us are still working!! Hope y'all had a great time! I missed all of you!

For those of you that haven't visited the Palomino for a time, they have given us some new menu items. I know. The Palomino is one of those "old" dinner houses that doesn't change much. But change they did. So come by and visit -- all entrees are \$11 -- alcohol is available at a nominal cost, unless you bring a sponsor!! And you get to mix with a collection of the finest retired police officers -- no, the finest police officers in the entire world!

And to show we are advancing to the computer age, our famed secretary/treasurer of SABLA, Hoy Key, has gone E-mail. He is encouraging any of you out there to contact him. His E-mail address is hoyley@psb-ber.com. Hoy tells me that other *Blue Line* associations are beginning to keep in touch by E-mail on the Internet. Give Hoy a try! And let us know you're coming for a visit.

I know I've mentioned this before, but SABLA now has our very own coffee mugs! Thanks to our "Prez" **Ed Lewandowski**. We can now drink and have people look at the mug and ask -- what the h--- is

SABLA? One side of the cup is a replica of "our" badge -- like no other badge in the world -- and the other side is the name of our great organization! If you plan on being a guest speaker, or you're gonna donate your car to us, or present an honorarium to us, you may be presented a mug by Prez Ed. Otherwise, for SABLA members, the cost is \$4. For now! If they become popular, the price will probably go up! The rest of you will have to contact Prez Ed! Our P.O. Box is 60353, Sacramento, CA 95860-0353.

Before we come to the end of this article, we have some extremely sad news to report. At the end of February, we found out that **R. T. Anderson** -- Richard T. Anderson, #10825 -- died February 2, 1998 in Napa, California. R.T. was an old friend. He started on 7/31/61 and retired on 8/16/89. He had lived in Vallejo in recent years. I've mentioned him in this article from time to time because he was a member of SABLA. But mostly because we worked together as supervisors in Metro during the troubling '70s, and he will be remembered by me, for those days, 'cause they were something! He was great subject matter for this writer, and even though I upset him from time to time 'cause I "picked on him," he always shook hands and came back for more! Many of us have prayed for you, R.T. We hope you find eternal peace and rest. R.T. We'll miss ya!

Our next luncheon dates will be April 9th and May 14th. We still meet at the Palomino -- Watt & El Camino in Sacramento. Social time and talk, talk, talk is at 11:30. Lunch at 12:00. In April we'll have a speaker from Folsom Prison, at 12:30. There'll still be time to tell "war stories" or about what traveling you've done recently. C'mon by and see us!

Be good to each other out there. We need and love each and every one of you.

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More Retirement Association on next page

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RETIREMENT ASSOCIATIONS & NOTICES

Inland Blue Line

by Loyd Yandle

I went hunting the other day and I scared up a jackrabbit. He ran a little way when he turned around and yelled, "Watch it buster, I'm no Easter bunny. But I just wanted you to know my brother **Jack Halstead** is going to visit your cotton picken club on April 8th. He tells me he is going to be your guest speaker." With that he turned and hopped down the road.

Well I might as well tell you about the spring luncheon. It will be on Wednesday, April 8th, at the Anchor Restaurant, 2524 E. Florida Avenue in the big city of Hemet, California. Get there about 11:00 a.m. so you can hob nob with all your old buddies, for an hour before the lunch is served, which is at noon sharp. The tariff is \$10 per person. That includes lunch, tax and tip.

We have been wanting to get Jack Halstead to come and speak to us again. Jack is always welcome at our club. You won't want to miss this presentation. It promises to be very informative. I am not going to tell you everything about the program, but it takes in survivor benefits, information regarding medical and good stuff like that. You'll be glad you came. Oh yes, Jack is going to bring some of his picture albums. Chances are you are in some of the books. Jack is bringing a surprise guest, besides old what's-his-name, **"Dean Ward,"** who is coming with Jack. It will be good to see Dean. I have had several members who have inquired about Dean and his health. I understand Dean and his wife have been making frequent visits to Laughlin and Las Vegas. Dean tells me he don't gamble much. Just a quarter here and there, but it's his wife that is hooked on the dollar machines. Sure, Dean. We understand. You just go along to carry all the money.

Beverly and I got a free trip to Laughlin for our 57th anniversary. Our children gave us 3 nights and 4 days at Ramada with VIP room and \$100 a day spending money. We are looking forward to it. If all goes well we will take advantage of it the latter part of April.

We took in the Palm Springs Follies on our anniversary. It is a real spectacular show. You better make reservations about a month in advance. They are packed at every show. But you have to see it. Your wife will hug your neck.

I have had quite a few inquiries from members asking if I had heard any scuttle-butt about what we are

getting in the way of a raise on our pension this year. I have not heard anything, but if we get what we got last year, I am not going to be able to stand it. What are we going to do with all -- and I said all -- that money? I understand they give raises according to cost of living. What cost of living? Two percent of what? If things get any worse, we are going to have to cash our welfare checks.

Hey! I just heard about how we can save a lot of money just by sending in an order for three months' supply of prescription medication at only \$5 per prescription for a three month's supply. Sure beats spending \$10 to \$18 co-pay per prescription for 30 days. I just sent off for my first order. For all you guys who have Blue Cross, better look into it. Don't know about Kaiser or Aetna or HMOs, but it sure saves a lot for Blue Cross members.

Just heard from **Chuck Morton** from Sierra Nevada Blue Line at Carson City. He is coming to L.A. in April and made reservations to visit our club. Said he has been reading the Inland Blue Line articles and is looking forward to meeting up with some of his old classmates and partners. I have not seen Chuck for a long time. It will be good seeing him.

I guess the flu season is all over so I don't want any excuses for the April meeting. I had a whole morning watch cancel out for January meeting. Hope you all are better.

Hemet is sure growing. We added one new police officer to the department and installed two more traffic lights. Broke ground for the new library and opened up a new thrift store. God I can't stand this progress. I knew Clinton and Gore were both doing a super job, but it is mind boggling when you think about it. Since 1992 we have only had 119 businesses go belly up in Hemet. If the economy keeps improving, we may have to move. We won't be able to afford the luxury.

Hope everyone survived the storm. You asked for a little rain for the lawn. Well you got it. Guess you should not have prayed for rain so hard.

Well mark your calendar for April 8th, and come see us in Hemet. We'd love to see you. If you need any information, give me a call at 909-925-4491. If you get the box, I'll return your call. "Drive careful, it is a jungle out there."

Old Blue

by Neil Parker (Retired Newton Street Detectives)

Look Out, Las Vegas!

(With apologies to the late Jack Webb and Rumpole of The Bailey.)

It's 5:30 a.m. in Los Angeles, California. This is the city. I "work" here on the Day Watch out of Griffith Park Division. The boss is Team Captain **Mel Sandvig**. My partners are the other members of Old Blue. Our job? To win! But today is different, today is Runday! You read it right, Runday.

It started early right after you shut off the alarm clock. A friendly but sleepy voice that on occasion can drown out a fog horn inquires "What are you getting up so early for on your day off?" Answering its own question before your still groggy brain can come up with a believable but defensive answer to a relatively rational question, the air is pierced with the big voice -- "Do you know that it's REALLY, REALLY RAINING out? Big time? You're going running again? In the rain? Are you nuts or what? Your toes are still black and blue; can't you ever stay home? You and all your cop friends are crazy. Go ahead, I hope your pension is all paid up!" Thoroughly shell shocked and finding your way into the kitchen you find that it's not a total loss in the four minutes that has gone by since roll call began. This is indeed your lucky day; there is some of yesterday's coffee in the pot. Quickly you "nuke" the residue and dregs and quietly thank whoever the genius is that developed the microwave oven. Gazing out of the blurred kitchen window as you wait for the bell that tells you the elixir is ready to get you started, you notice that the lawn seems to be moving. Whaatt? It's not the lawn moving; it's the dog's house and it's already moved and he's on top of it. Holy mackerel, that's rain out there and it's about six inches deep and rising and I knew I should have moved those trash barrels that are probably blocking the drain to the street. Yep, looks like "she who must be obeyed" was as right as rain, about the rain. It is indeed coming down, big time.

Hmmm, maybe if I don't drink all of this cup of coffee I can still get back to sleep. Maybe none of the other guys will show up in this rain, either. Maybe no one will even notice that I didn't show. Naw, can't do that. Gene LaBriola and all of the other ex-patriots from Metro will all be standing tall, in the rain, and I better get the dog dried off and inside and hit the road and fall in with them. "Come on Muttley, come on boy. That's it, come on in. Hey, get in here, gett in here. Get in here! What are you nuts, Muttley? Get in the house. Get in here out of the rain." From somewhere upstairs the voice of an angel wafts gently downstairs with the gentle greeting. "Oh honey, take some extra clothes and dry socks as long as you are determined to catch pneumonia. And drive carefully. I still love you, but I must be nuts to have

a husband and a dog that want to run in the rain." With Muttley in the house and the van easing out of the driveway, I reflect slowly on "she who must be obeyed." It's been roll calls and riots, stakeouts and sit-ins, sig-alerts and shootouts and now it's track meet and tired feet, marathons and miracle medicines. I have to admit that "she who must be obeyed" has been a pretty good silent partner for 46 years. Wow, that's more time than you get for robbery. Thanx for all your help kid, now go back to bed.

The above described scenario is probably fictitious and may or may not have occurred at someone's home that you know of. But I know of ten homes where getting up and getting out wasn't ever a question. From Temecula to Thousand Oaks and Torrance, from Westminster to West Hills, from Lancaster to Laguna Hills and Los Angeles, the team showed up for PRACTICE...PRACTICE!! Not for a race, but for PRACTICE! Not even a prize -- no T-shirt, no cup nor cap, but just to PRACTICE! In one of the worst rainstorms to hit the Southland, the team showed up to PRACTICE. A very soggy congratulations to **Mike Moran, Keith Allen, Bill Osuna, Pat Dailey, Mike Calagna, Pat Rossen, Rich Martinez, Mel Sandvig, George Franco and Gene LaBriola**. Look out Las Vegas, we are ready!

Congratulations and good luck to the many team members who live out of town, in some cases out of state. These guys phone in their monthly 10K qualifying times and so far it looks like some really great competition is shaping up for the greatest, biggest and most fun race ever put together. At last count there are approximately 215 teams that have signed up. Some are from out of the country. OLD BLUE will have one more qualifying practice meet on Sunday, March 22, at 8:00 a.m. in the usual place. We usually have our meet on the last Sunday of the month, rain or shine. Take I-5 northbound to the Griffith Park off-ramp and turn right at the stop sign. Make a right turn, go about half a mile to the first road just before the Park Ranger Station, turn right and follow this road to its end and you will see us. The reason for meeting on the 22nd is because the L.A. Marathon is on the 29th and a lot of OLD BLUE people will be in it. Any questions, call Mel Sandvig at 818-906-2600 or 818-865-0727, or yours truly at 714-455-1952.

It's not a big secret that a lot of folks are not runners and that's why they make Fords and Chevys. But everyone can be a booster or supporter. That's really when you get elevated to the class of a Caddy or a Lincoln. If you aren't doing anything the weekend of April 25th and 26th, get on up to Vegas and help support OLD BLUE or whatever LAPD team you are rooting for. The Los Angeles 14th Annual Law Enforcement Baker to Vegas 120 mile Relay Challenge Cup Race has got to be the most fun, yet toughest run race that you'll ever be around. Give it a try; you won't regret it.

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VETERAN'S CORNER

Veterans Corner is a regular feature of the Thin Blue Line. We encourage you to submit articles for publication. Deadline information can be found under 'Editorial Policies' on Page 2 of this issue.



AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

Meeting: 3rd Tuesday, 6:30pm - Panorama City Post #817
13553 Reedley Avenue, Panorama City, CA 91402 (818) 781-2261

by Charlie Meter
Commander
Charlie Meter
381



Adjutant Frank Ortiz
160 N. Glendora Avenue, Covina, California 91724
Hm (626) 331-4274

Boys' State

Your Los Angeles Police Post has selected three boys to send to the very prestigious California Boys' State in Sacramento. High schools throughout the state submit names of applicants that are the cream of the crop. Most are "A" students and have exemplary citizenship. Upon receiving the various names from high schools, the American Legion interviews the eleventh graders and makes the final selections. It is a breath of fresh air to be involved with these young men. If all our students had the attitude that these boys have, our country would have a bright future. While they are in Sacramento for a week, they learn how our government works and actively participate in running for various mythical government offices. Upon the completion of their week, two boys out of the 930 are selected to represent California and participate on a national level. Representing our Post will be Joshua Berk (Troy High School), a relative of retired Officer Ed Harper; John Christ (Laurel High School), the son of active Det. Jeffrey Christ (West Los Angeles Forgery); and Jason Geggie, the son of active Officer Paul Geggie. Our current governor, current President of the United States, and basketball star Michael Jordan are all V.I.P.s that attended Boys' State. Governors, congressmen, senators, secretaries of state, and high-ranking military officers are the norm for ex-Boys' State participants.

We Get Letters

We received the following letter of appreciation:

Dear Commander:

A few years ago my son, Jeffrey Byran Ellis, was selected to be your representative to attend Boys' State in Sacramento. I am proud to inform you that he continued his impressive accomplishments, and this past May he graduated from the United States Military Academy with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering. He is currently a lieutenant stationed at Edwards Air Force Base near Lancaster, California. While at the Air Force Academy, he realized just how few people get the opportunity to experience Boys'

State; and he saw the positive reaction that Academy officials have toward Boys' State participants. Thanks for giving him that significant chance during his high school years.

Signed,
Terry Ellis

Letters like this are greatly appreciated. As your American Legion Post, we try to put our best foot forward and display an image that we can all be proud of. It is a good feeling to know that we supported Jeffrey Ellis who is now protecting us and our country.

A Milestone

Every once in a while an individual commits a fete far and beyond what we can imagine. One of our Post members was in that realm on February 1, 1998. The good Lord said, "It's your time Gordon Ring." At 103 years of age, Gordon passed into Post everlasting and joined his many friends and fellow Veterans from World War I. I had the privilege of meeting Gordon at an annual "Old Timers' Night" at the Panorama City Post. He still carried on a great conversation and was an immense incentive to all of us. On a personal note, I was jealous of Gordon because he had more hair than I did, but so does a bar of soap. Gordon is probably looking down at us asking himself why he waited so long. I'm sure that he set an age record for our Post that will never be surpassed. To Gordon from all of us in the American Legion we say, "Hand Salute, Two." Rest in peace.

Almost There

Through the efforts of Gail Tam, J.J. Leonard, George Aguilar, Marty Chalupa, and Frank Flores, it appears that we are going to reach out membership goal for 1998. Ten more, and it's bingo! A lot of effort has been expended, but we are going to be able to walk into the Department Convention at Redding with our heads held high. Class #11-97 is to be congratulated with a perfect 13 out of 13 signing up. Who says 13 is an unlucky number? As usual, the Marines dominated. Semper Fi! Welcome Ryan White (USMC), David Guillen (USMC), David Hale (USMC), Samuel Gonzalez (USMC), Jason Scott (USMC), Michael Nagle (USMC), Jose Martin De Kampo (USMC), Rodriguez

Migdalia (USAF), Paul Muskovin (USA), Joseph Meyer (USA), Rafael Lopez (USA), Jeffrey Mulheim (USAF), and Jeffrey Andert (USAF). Thanks for your support, and good luck with your police career. Class #2-98 had eight people eligible, and the dice rolled a winning seven. Our newest supporters are Eduardo Gonzalez (USMC), Kenneth Fortune (USMC), Arthur Ashcraft (USMC), James Norton (USA), Scott Dewitt (USA), Gordon Helper (USN), and Alfred Moschetti (USAF). Hope to see you soon at one of our meetings.

Blue Line Award

On February 3, 1998, the Los Angeles Police Protective League honored our Post by giving us an award for our American Legion Blue Line articles. Lenny Muñoz (League Director) presented us with a Certificate of Recognition for our continuing contribution to the publication of *The Thin Blue Line*. It is our second year in a row that we have been honored. It was a great evening coupled with an outstanding dinner. I want to thank Helen McVay (Protective League) for all the assistance that she has always given us. A special thanks to Kathy Meter-Mahler and Heidi (Meter) Horak for their typing, editing, and faxing of our American Legion articles. They both do a lot of work for

the enjoyment of others. Few people realize what goes into producing an entire page for the *Blue Line*. Last, but not least, thanks to all the directors of the Protective League for making it possible to be a part of the *Blue Line* publication.

(Editor's note: A warm congratulations to my dad, Charlie Meter, for the recognition he received for his *Blue Line* articles. They are always informative, witty, and very enjoyable. His diligent and professionalism is to be respected and applauded. -Kathy)

Forty-Two Years

Our Adjutant Frank Ortiz will never match Gordon Ring, but he reached a significant milestone himself. On February 1, 1998, he and his wife Dorothy celebrated their 42nd wedding anniversary. He was married in a civil ceremony while serving in the Army in Naha, Okinawa. He was one of those people that had to get married twice because the Catholic Church doesn't recognize marriages that aren't performed by a priest. Upon returning to the states, he quit living a life of sin and was married in the Church. We congratulate his wife Dorothy and his children for putting up with him all these years. May the two of you celebrate many, many more.

*

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Career Development News

The latest updates on the Police Officer III and Detective examinations are available on the Career Development hotline which operates 24 hours daily at (213) 207-3000. Updates are also listed in the Weekly Consolidated Notice. Examination bibliography items, including previous examinations, are available from the Career Development Centers at (213) 207-3000 or (310) 342-3172.

The Career Development staff are interested in developing programs that meet your needs. Please talk to staff about any ideas you would like to see implemented. If you would be interested in volunteering your time to assist staff in getting projects moving, please contact the Center at (213) 207-3000 or (310) 342-3172.

*

Unique Officer Supports Special Olympics ...

continued from page 32

have paid as much as \$250.00 to acquire one.

Through innovations such as that, the fourth annual Tip-A-Cop fund-raiser continued the program's history of success, both in terms of raising funds for a worthy cause and in maintaining positive relations with the community West Valley LAPD officers serve.

"My customers are just so impressed with the quality of service they're getting here tonight!" Kevin Bickert, general manager of the West Hills Red Lobster said with a laugh. "But seriously, I think this is just a great program because it gives us the opportunity to come together as a community and support a wonderful organization."

For their part, the officers participating in Tip-A-Cop wholeheartedly agreed.

"This is a great event. We get to support a worthy cause, and we get to interact with people in a more attractive setting than we usually do," Officer P-3 and Police Protective League delegate Tom Mason said.

"I'm extremely proud of my officers," Divisional Commander Valentino Paniccia said between rounds of dish clearing. "This is a great bunch of men and women who have done a terrific job building a relationship with the community we serve. You feel a real camaraderie between the people who live here and the officers who serve this community."

"Mastro Is A Maestro"

And all participants agree that Mastro deserves much of the credit for making the event so successful.

"Mastro is a Maestro at coordinating this event," West Valley Division Lieutenant Tom Kirk said. "If it wasn't for Danny's spirit and dedication, this event wouldn't be nearly as successful as it is. He

spends hours planning, coordinating volunteers, and bringing all the details together. He rallies the troops, and you can't help but get caught up in his enthusiasm. This could really be called the 'Danny Mastro' show,'" Kirk concluded.

"Dan is unbelievable," TVSO Area Director Lynn Westlund agreed. "He's a great motivator, and we've really been impressed by his tireless dedication to this project."

So impressed, in fact, that the Special Olympics offered him a job fund raising, which he politely turned down. Sgt. Mastro has every intention of continuing the program, however, and hopes that other police divisions will be moved to hold similar events.

"Law enforcement agencies all around the country hold fund raisers similar to this one, with varying degrees of success," Mastro said. "We're trying to set a standard for other divisions to try and live up to."

Editor's note: TVSO is an all-volunteer organization, and is always in need of volunteers. Interested individuals are invited to attend a monthly (evening) meeting to learn more about the numerous ways in which volunteers support this worthwhile program. For more information, contact TVSO Area Director Lynn Westlund at (818) 955-7824.

Latin American Law Enforcement Association - LALEY Needs Help

by John Egan

The mission of LALEY is to enhance the effectiveness of all officers of the LAPD, and to foster the Department's relationship with the community by:

- Providing training for all of our employees in the form of promotional seminars and career enhancement.

- Developing an environment where mentoring by experienced employees helps nurture the growth and development of new employees and thus the future of the Department.

- Acts as an advocate by making sure that LALEY focuses on ensuring that the Department is responsive to the needs of all of the various groups within the Department.

The Board is committed to developing a strategy in response to the concerns the membership identified in the recent survey. Our focus is on reinvigorating LALEY and our place within the LAPD. We have spent a lot of time identifying key areas that we feel are critical to reestablishing LALEY as the premier employee organization in the Department. We have developed committees in key areas to develop strategies to begin the change process.

The Department has undergone significant change in the past few years. In order for LALEY to remain effective we too must change. The Board of Directors cannot do it alone. We need the help of the membership. WE NEED YOUR HELP, AND WE NEED IT NOW! We need volunteers to help with this process. Please contact the board member listed next to each committee if you want to be a part of reshaping LALEY. After the Los Angeles Police Protective League we are the largest employee group. With over 700 members we have a variety of different talents. You can be part of the future and the committee is starting now.

Below is a listing of the committees the Board is developing. Also listed is the name of the board

member who is responsible for acting as the champion for that committee.

A) Career Development Committee

Board Champion - John Egan (213) 847-3836

TASK: This group is tasked with two critical missions designing a series of promotional seminars to help all members of the organization develop to their full potential. It is also responsible for developing a list of career enhancement seminars.

B) Liaison Committee Board

Champion Art Lopez (213) 485-3207

TASK: This committee is tasked with developing strategies to create a better understanding between LALEY and other employee representative groups, elected and appointed officials in city government, and community groups.

C) Social Committee Board

Champion Rich Haro (213) 485-2531

TASK: This committee is tasked with developing a regular schedule of social events that will further the purpose of the organization in several ways.

D) Publicity And Communication Committee

Board Champion Art Gomez (213) 485-2633

TASK: This committee is tasked with developing strategies to enhance and disseminate the mission of LALEY within and without the Department.

E) Membership Committee Board

Champion Joe Aparicio (818) 756-8371

TASK: This committee is tasked with developing strategies to increase the membership of LALEY. Without your help we will not be able to do many of the things that you the membership would like to see happen. Please feel free to leave me a message on my voice mail and I will get back to you. I can be reached at (818) 259-1444.

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION



"Onion Field" Investigator

continued from page 29

one of the most tragic police killings and aftermath in modern law enforcement history.

I last saw Pierce in December 1973 when I said my goodbyes to him and the Lakewood Police upon my return to Southern California policing. He went on to obtain his master's and doctorate degrees and become Chief of Eugene, Oregon. Years earlier, upon his retirement from LAPD, he was appointed Chief of Springfield, Oregon. In 1971 he was appointed director of the newly-formed Lakewood Department of Public Safety in Colorado. I was then a young 24-year-old police officer in Walnut Creek, California, and Pierce offered me an opportunity to join him in this new department, one day in May 1971, when we met in San Francisco. I was so impressed by him during our meeting that I shortly resigned my position in Walnut Creek, threw all of my belongings in a Ryder truck, and headed for Denver, to follow this man who almost instantly had captured my interest, imagination and commitment. Though I only stayed on in Lakewood for a couple of years before returning to California policing, I was fortunate to spend a good part of that time working directly for him, creating a sense of personal loyalty, admiration and affection that has remained, undiminished, over the years. Although I last saw him that year, we exchanged brief notes and holiday greetings over the years. He so affected those of us who worked closely with him that nothing would permit us to dis-

point him or fall short of his expectations in any way. That was leadership, and I suppose, truth be told, it also bordered on hero worship.

I remember one evening in 1971 when I was working in the office late, Pierce stopped by on his way out, winked at me, and said, "Go home, watch Dragnet tonight," and walked away. I didn't understand, but something made me do it anyway. It was a story about Sergeant Friday's late-night visit to a laundromat to buy a pack of smokes. He encountered a burglar and there was a shooting that raised questions. The case was handily solved by "the officer-involved shooting investigator, Pierce R. Brooks." Then it was there in the credits, "Technical Advisor, Pierce R. Brooks." In those days, actual police events became the storylines for Jack Webb's television series "Dragnet" and "Adam-12". Another time, Pierce mentioned to me that former LAPD detective Joseph Wambaugh was "working on a new book about the Campbell killing -- it will be a good one."

This was a man who in defining by example shaped many young officers' impressions of what the ultimate police investigator, trainer, administrator and leader would be -- and none of us will ever forget him.

To Joyce, Mike and Dan, we share, to the extent we can, your loss and we join in honoring this real-life hero, and we commit to carrying on his legacy to keep of officers, deputies and all over law enforcement members everywhere, out of harm's way.

A Eulogy for a True Policeman

continued from page 29

so. Some of his most courageous, sacrificial acts, including gunfights, were the result of defending people when he didn't have to -- while "off duty." That was his level of commitment.

He undoubtedly put more criminals in prison than any other officer working the area. Yet he never had someone try to "get even." The people he sent to prison may have been angry at being caught, but there was never a doubt that they had been treated fairly. Nick cared for people. One night when we were having dinner at Nick's house, we heard a knock at the back door. His wife, Helen, peeked through the curtains and saw that it was a neighborhood "hype" (heroin addict). She warned Nick not to go to the door or give him money. Nick went to the door. When he returned, he sheepishly admitted he had given the hopeless addict a ten dollar bill to buy food for the baby he was holding. This was classic "Nick" -- street wise, but amazingly vulnerable to people's needs.

Once a burglar forced in the front door of Nick's house, causing quite a bit of damage. Yet, upon careful examination, it seemed no property was missing. Strange! Several months later, a heroin addict we arrested confessed to the "break in," apologizing profusely. The criminal explained he did not realize it was Nick's house. After making the entry he observed a photograph of Nick on a coffee table near the front door and immediately left the house without taking anything out of respect and probably a little fear of Nick.

When we made an arrest late in the day, Nick would often stop by a short order place and purchase a hamburger take-out dinner with

his own money...for the arrested. He would figure out the time for booking and fingerprinting and realize the thief would miss the last call for dinner. Once he convinced the juvenile court to grant him wardship of a juvenile auto thief we had arrested. He and Helen took on a tough job of bringing some values and love to a boy who had none. A life was redirected and given hope. I believe this was so because Nick had hope and he enjoyed giving hope. When I faced times of discouragement, Nick would find some reason to drop by. Later, I would realize the purpose of his visit. I had been encouraged.

He was a complex man, a deep man. I was present when he made peace with his God. His genuine humility often concealed his wisdom, his discernment.

But those of us who knew him well saw that side of him. He was a faithful friend. He was a great role model. There are now many "Najeras" in the LAPD and law enforcement because of his example.

Nick had two loves that were foremost. First, he deeply loved his wife Helen (or "Elena"). He was true blue to her. She was the only one. She was his "Buddy-Pal." His second love was "The Job." His love for police work ran deep and wide. And that love was contagious. Many of us were infected with it. I was.

Someone has said a man's life is like a boat. It leaves a wake. If that be true, then Nick was a big man. He left a big wake. Many of us were touched by Nick. I was...profoundly. I had the honor of being one of his partners. He gave me my love for police work. He mentored me, taught me, and sometimes called me to task, when I needed it. I will miss him as all those who knew him will. But his wake still rolls on. His life did make a difference.

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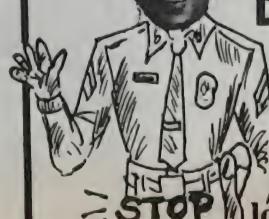
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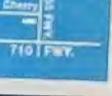
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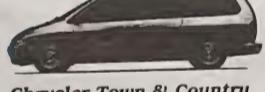
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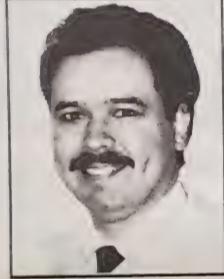
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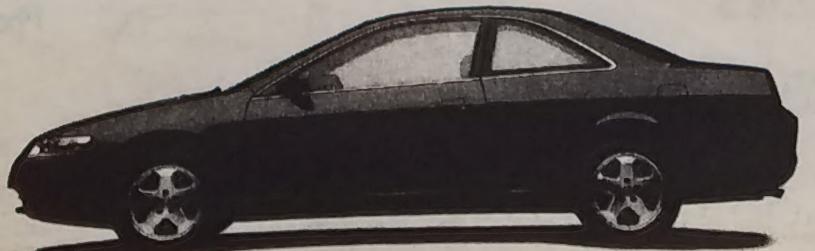
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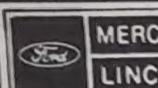
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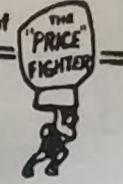
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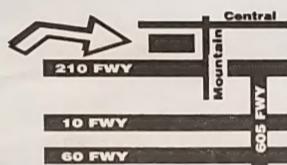
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